



THE NOE VALLEY VOICE

Cybelle's Pizza Moves Down The Street to Make Way For 'Wraps'

By Anne Gates

This spring a hot new trendsetter will join the fast-food parade on 24th Street.

Wrap Works, a restaurant and takeout featuring tortilla "wraps" — an upscale cousin to the burrito — will be moving into the storefront now occupied by Cybelle's Pizza on 24th near Castro. The franchise is a subsidiary of the Chevy's restaurant chain, known for its popular Tex-Mex cuisine.

Meanwhile, Cybelle's, currently serving 150 pizza slices a day at 4042 24th St., is taking over the space formerly occupied by Noe's Grill at 24th and Church. Noe's Grill closed for good on Jan. 12, and owner Gaetano Basso bid farewell to the neighborhood.

But the cheeseburgers and pasta are staying. Fans of the food at Noe's Grill will be relieved to hear that Cybelle's chefs will keep most of the items on the old Grill menu. They'll just add them to the pizza menu.

Neal Meyers, working partner at Cybelle's, says he's glad to do his bit for Noe Valley's culinary diversity. "We want to try to satisfy the existing customers for both Noe's and Cybelle's." Some of the staff from Noe's Grill may also stay on, he adds.

The move is expected to take place in mid-February, depending on when Cybelle's obtains all its permits. Meyers will repaint the former Noe's Grill, do some minor remodeling, and install new signs. "We don't want to change much of anything [in the decor]," Meyers says.



Loss of Trees May Signal the End: Despite the fierce opposition of a group of Church Street merchants, city work crews cut down three trees in front of Star Bakery last month to clear the way for new disabled ramps. For more on Merchants vs. Muni, see page 6 of this month's Letters section and Mazook's Rumors column, pages 52-53. Photo by Najib Joe Hakim

(Patrons should note that the bar portion of Noe's Bar and Grill is separately owned and operated, and thus will stay the same as always.)

Both Meyers and Basso speak fondly of the neighborhood and of the customer

loyalty they've enjoyed over the years.

Meyers was born and raised in Noe Valley and has worked at Cybelle's for 12 1/2 years. He says of Cybelle's, "We're

Continued on Page 7

Fishing Pier To Be Named 'Augie'—for Loving Dad Jim Augustino

By Denise Minor

All the fish for the "Save the Pier" barbecue that afternoon in 1980 — red and black rock cod, ling cod, and sea perch — were caught by fishing partners Jim Augustino and Henry Izumizaki in their boat the Nipwop III, one of five boats they owned together over the years.

The two friends and about 75 others had gathered to launch what would become a nine-year battle to rebuild the decaying Pier 7 and designate it a fishing pier with public access.

"That pier was near and dear to Jim for 16 or 17 years," said Augustino's wife, Sue Heller. "It was at the foot of the hill we lived on. We would go down there for walks and to crab fish all the time."

So when Augustino, 48, a well-known developer who lived in Noe Valley, died Dec. 23, some city officials decided that renaming the pier in his honor was a good way to commemorate his years of activism in preserving open space and revitalizing San Francisco's waterfront.

"It's a very appropriate tribute to a very special man," said State Assemblyman Kevin Shelley, a longtime friend of Augustino's.

Augustino and his son, Harley Augustino, 18, had driven to the Boreal ski area on Friday, Dec. 20, for what they thought would be a half day of cross-country skiing. But within hours they were trapped by a ferocious blizzard that swept through the Sierra mountains. For three days they survived by staying in tree wells and building snow caves.

On Monday, Dec. 23, a California Highway Patrol helicopter rescued Harley just hours after his father had died of hypothermia.

In the weeks following the tragedy, family and friends mourned the loss of Jim Augustino and searched for ways to build a lasting memorial to his spirit.

Veronica Sanchez, manager of governmental affairs for the Port Commission, said the idea for renaming Pier 7 came from discussions among a number of people, including Augustino's family, Kevin Shelley, and Chris Martin, owner of the Cannery at Fisherman's Wharf.

"Pier 7 used to be just a dilapidated old cargo pier," said Sanchez. But thanks to work by Augustino and members of the Northeast Waterfront Committee, it is now a model for waterfront revitalization and has received numerous national awards.

On Jan. 7, the Board of Supervisors passed a resolution authored by supervisors Michael Yaki and Barbara Kaufman, which would "officially designate the Pier 7 Public Access and Fishing Pier as the James Augustino Fishing Pier, to be

Continued on Page 9

Vandals Light Tree Bonfire in Schoolyard

By Steve Steinberg

So often these days you hear the expression, *What kind of a person would do something like that?*

Well, here it is again: What kind of a person would drag 15 discarded Christmas trees to a public schoolyard in the middle of the night and set them on fire?

That's exactly what some person or persons did during the wee hours of Jan. 7 at James Lick Middle School. They made a bonfire in the lower playground on the Clipper Street side of the school at 1220 Noe St.

"I was shocked and mad," said James Lick Principal Joan Hepperly upon seeing the charred remains of the trees when she arrived at work that morning. "Someone in the neighborhood must really be sick," she added.

Even more disturbing to Hepperly and to the James Lick students was the fact that the vandals set the conflagration right next to two of only four live trees in the schoolyard.

Those trees, which were badly burned, will probably die, Hepperly said, although she's still waiting for a definite prognosis from Friends of the Urban Forest.

Hepperly, a gardener herself, said the eight-year-old trees were part of the school's plan to make the campus more green.

"It's really too bad," the principal said. "We don't have that much shade on the yard, and it was one area the kids could go and hang out."

The students took the incident very personally, Hepperly noted. "They felt someone didn't like their school and was trying to set it on fire."

Although the fire was not intense enough to cause damage to the school building itself, it could have ignited some wooden benches that were a mere 10 feet from the fire. Fortunately, Hepperly said, that did not occur.

A San Francisco Fire Department report, given to the school, indicated that

fire trucks arrived at the scene a little before 5 a.m., responding to a call from someone in the area.

Hepperly said she wanted to thank whoever saw the fire and called it in.

She said a police investigation had thus far revealed no suspects. She didn't think it was anyone connected to the school.

Hepperly hoped that this was the work of a prankster or perhaps some thoughtless teenagers — as opposed to a dangerous pyromaniac.

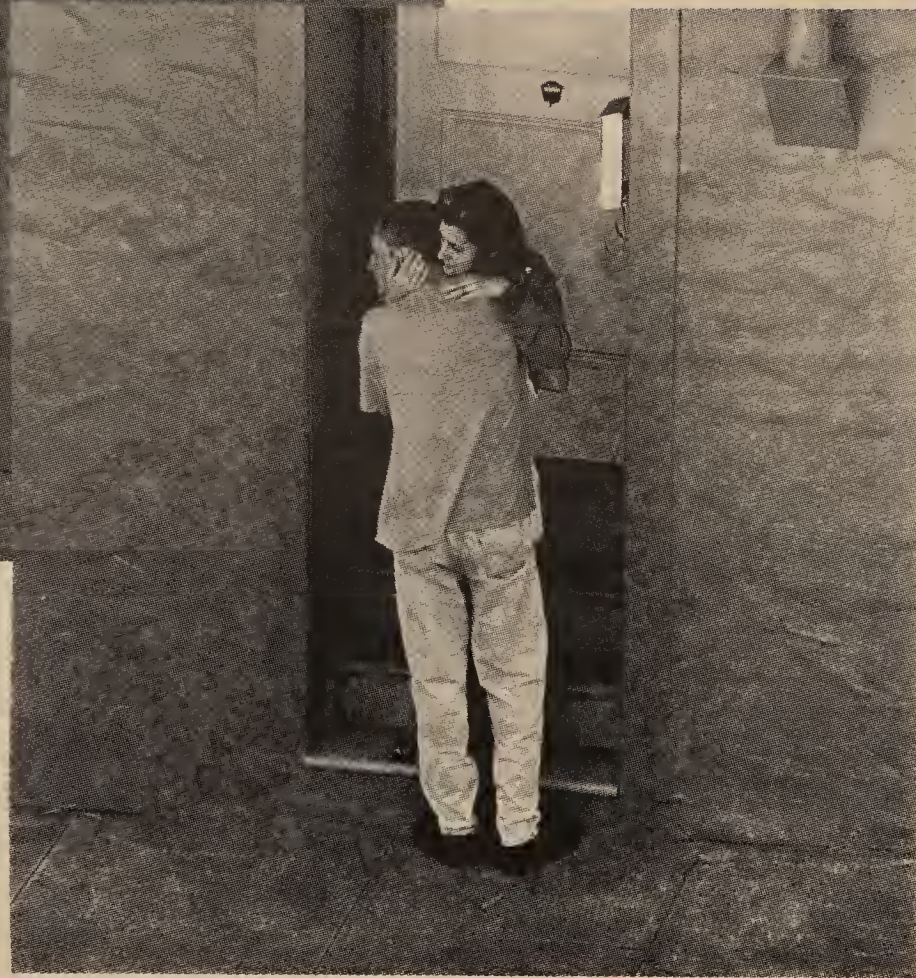
She also said that probably more than one person was involved. Drag marks indicated that the grinchers hauled the trees onto the blacktop from more than one direction. Plus, "it must have taken some time to drag 15 trees into a pile," she said.

Although the school's fire-scarred trees will remain for some time as a reminder of someone's perverse idea of fun, the actual cleanup of the burnt Christmas trees was accomplished that same day, with the teaching staff and Sunset Scavenger crews pitching in.

Anyone with any information about the Jan. 7 fire should contact the Mission Police Station at 558-5400. □



Being Your Valentine. There's nothing like the thrill of love when you're young. The intoxication of those first touches and the anticipation of future magic can transform a drab doorway into an oasis of joy. *Photos by Nojib Joe Hakim*



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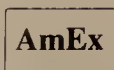
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Thanks to a tipoff from Noe Valley Merchants and Zephyr Real Estate, Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer (a.k.a. Craig Landry) arrived on 24th Street in time to greet holiday strollers Rob and Robbie Marshall. Photo by Beverly Tharp

LETTERS 32¢

Screech Screech Screech Went the Trolley

Editor:

I represent a concerned group of residents from the 1200 and 1300 blocks of Church Street. We are very concerned and disappointed with the new Muni trolley cars introduced on the J-line recently. Manufactured by an Italian firm called Breda, they are the silver-colored ones which have a new computer-based AC propulsion system.

We do support Muni staff in their efforts to upgrade the system, but they seem to have forgotten one thing: NOISE. These new cars emit a high-pitched screechy loud noise that pierces through to our homes. The key concern here is pitch, as the noise on the old ones was just as bad. It intrudes into our homes and our lives, and decreases the quality of life here in Noe Valley.

Muni's response is that they are "looking into it," but to date nothing concrete has been done to actually decrease the noise. The senior project manager suggested that the possibilities are either to muffle various locations on the engine to dampen the noise, or to change the existing track, which could take forever.

After they are finished "studying" the noise levels, they will of course have to find a way to finance the alterations. As the noise emitted by these models was "not part of the original specifications," it is again up to us citizens to force Muni to recognize this as a legitimate issue that deserves top priority AND money to fix the problem.

I am asking all our neighborhood friends to please contact Muni by phone,

923-6162, or write to the Muni Community Affairs Department, 949 Presidio Ave., San Francisco, CA 94115, to let them know that REAL people live here who value their quality of life and that loud, unrelenting noise significantly deteriorates that quality.

Thank you!

Emme Levine
Church Street

When Santa Came to Town

Editor:

There was no sign of Scrooge, but there were plenty of tiny tots on Santa's lap at the Bank of America on Dec. 14, 1996. The annual visit, as in past years,

Continued on Page 6



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Voice Mail

The Voice will always make room for your letters. Please write us at the Noe Valley Voice, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Or send e-mail to jaxvoice@aol.com.

Remember to include your name, address, and phone number, so that we can contact you if we have questions. Note that letters may be edited for clarity and conciseness.

Another way to reach us is via our Web site on the Internet. The address is www.noevalleyvoice.com. You'll find a history of the Voice, a thumbnail sketch of Noe Valley, and a quick and easy link to Letters to the Editor.

You'll also get to peruse the Class Ads and a feature story from the current issue. Check it out.

Yours sincerely, Sally Smith and Jack Tipple, the eds.



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LETTERS 32¢

Continued from Page 4

was sponsored by the Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association. As always, merchants in the neighborhood showed the true spirit of 24th Street with the generosity of their hearts.

From 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Bank of America, hot chocolate poured to warm the souls and spirits of those who braved the cold weather of the especially harsh season to join in the festivities. There was a wonderful assortment of cookies and candies for the boys and girls waiting in line to whisper their wishes to Santa Claus. Photographs were taken of the children with Santa and given as unique card mementos of the day. The children also received other goodies such as toothbrushes and stencil toys. Outside, the St. Philip's School Choir caroled angelically from store to store on 24th Street.

Meanwhile, Zephyr Real Estate was coordinating its Christmas celebration a few doors down the street. From 11 to 3, visitors were treated to cotton candy, peanuts, and mulled apple cider. Zephyr's own songstress, Karen Drucker, attracted crowds with Christmas carols. Out front, Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer entertained children and adults with fun and cheer. (One parent called back to ask where Rudolph was going next, so the family could follow him to other events.)

It was wonderful that so many people made Christmas on 24th Street special. The Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association would like to thank @eon Computer, for their cards and other graphic work; the Bank of America, for photos and space for the event; Barry Dunne, who knows Santa personally; Drs. Sylvia Jimenez, Steven Czekala, and Cynthia Tong, for donating toothbrushes and toys; the St. Philip's School Choir, for their lovely music; Starbucks Coffee, for hot chocolate and store coupons; Twin Peaks Properties, for chocolate candies; and Zephyr Real Estate, for hosting the Rudolph celebration.



For their monetary donations, we'd also like to thank Bolanos Real Estate, Cruise Holidays, Noe Valley Bakery and Bread Company, Noe Valley Law Offices, Small Frys, Starbucks Coffee, and Twin Peaks Properties.

Everyone in the Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association hopes to make next year's celebration even bigger and more festive. Bringing pure and simple joy to our children is the primary focus, but we would also like to do more for the neighborhood. Many people consider those old tinsel decorations an eyesore, so the merchants will continue to work on purchasing new street decorations that are more representative of the neighborhood.

Besides Christmas, we are planning several other festive events for the coming year. The neighborhood merchants meet at Bank of America on the last Wednesday of the month from 9 to 10 a.m. We would be glad to have you join us at one of the meetings. Please feel free to drop in.

Cynthia Tong, D.D.S.
Secretary, Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association

A Guide to Polite Parking

Editor:

I found the letter to the editor in your October issue titled "A Room of One's Car's Own" to be quite intriguing.

Ever since I moved to San Francisco a year ago, I've observed that San Francis-

cans are somewhat selfish about their cars, and I'm not talking driving, which is a letter all its own.

First, why do so many people feel it is a right to double-park? Even when there is a space across the street, many drivers just abandon their automobiles in a lane of traffic. It's so selfish to block a full lane of traffic for your own convenience.

Second, perhaps those renters or homeowners who own garages could park in them or in front of them to free up space for others who aren't so fortunate.

My third observation is that blocking the sidewalk with your car is rude and should be a ticketable offense. (*It is.—Ed.*) Next time you consider parking this way, remember the elderly and the handicapped, who cannot easily walk around vehicles.

San Franciscans are giving and tolerant people. Let's extend this to our personal automobiles.

Name withheld by request
Alvarado Street

Church Street Merchants Want Mayor to Weigh in on Ramp Fight

The following is excerpted from a letter to Mayor Willie Brown dated Jan. 9. For more on the Church Street ramp dispute, see this month's Rumors column, starting page 52, or our front-page story in the November 1996 issue.—Editor

Dear Mayor Brown:

We, the merchants at the south end of Church Street in Noe Valley, are extremely concerned about the proposed construction of two block-long disability ramps for the J-Church line in our small business district. We fear that these ramps will have a devastating impact on our businesses because of a loss of parking and loading space, and customer access. We are also dissatisfied with Muni, which has given us evasive answers and endless excuses as to why these ramps cannot be moved to alternative sites.

It would take too long to summarize the entire history of this ramp issue, but suffice it to say that Muni did an extremely poor job of presenting the issue to our neighborhood and its merchants. According to Muni, the area at the end of Church Street was designated as a "key stop" based on some type of "computer program." Our understanding of a key stop under the ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) is that it must be a "major transfer point" close to heavily used areas such as employment centers, hospitals, and education centers.

In our opinion, our end of Church Street does not meet this criteria. While other bus lines are nearby, these are not major transfer lines, nor are we near the high traffic population areas mentioned in the ADA guidelines. Muni has never provided us with any hard data to back up its key stop designation.

The "key stop" definition aside, Muni has decided that disability ramps are to be placed in our neighborhood. We do not oppose ramps that do not interfere with our businesses. Originally, one of the ramps was to be placed in front of St. Paul's Catholic Church. When the church gathered its members together to protest the ramp placement, Muni changed its mind about placing a ramp in front of the church. Instead, Muni decided to push both ramps into our tiny business district between 29th and 30th streets on Church.

As currently planned, we are losing nine metered parking spaces on Church Street in front of our businesses. Also, we will have loading space severely restricted. Muni says we will gain back spaces on less convenient side streets, but as we examine it, the numbers just don't add up.

We have suggested that the ramps be

LETTERS

Continued from Page 6

placed nearby on 30th Street in front of the senior center, a much better location for the neighborhood. At first, Muni told us the street there was too narrow. Then we heard it would cost too much. Then we heard not all of the streetcars could go down 30th, so that wouldn't work. From other reliable sources we were told that there is unlimited federal money for these ramps and that 30th Street is not too narrow. On and on, the excuses go.

We have suggested shorter ramps, some with hydraulic lifts, pointing out the other city locations where they exist. No, Muni tells us, those won't work here; those other ramps were special exceptions. What about special exceptions for us?

When we have suggested that the ramps issue be reopened to include the senior center, St. Paul's, and other neighbors, we are told that we would have to undertake that ourselves. Is that our responsibility? As taxpayers and merchants, we are offended by such remarks.

Further, we are told that no changes can be made because there are "deadlines." We have seen deadlines come and go.

Mayor Brown, we ask you to visit our neighborhood personally to meet with us. Many of us supported you in your race for mayor and we now request your help.

We want the placement of these ramps and the "key stop" issue reexamined by competent city officials who will take our interests into account — something that has not occurred to date.

We will no longer be bulldozed by city officials who do not understand the needs of small businesses. Our livelihoods depend on access to our businesses.

We request that all of the parties who

'Wraps' Join Pizza, Pasta & Burgers on 24th Street

Continued from Page 1

really involved with the community, schools, and charity. We're going to keep our neighborhood image...and we want to continue our customer support in the new location."

Basso, who's departing Noe's Grill, thanks the community and local merchants for the support he's received over the past 61/2 years. "I couldn't have found a better community to move to," Basso says. "I've really grown to like the neighborhood." He cites economic and personal reasons for leaving, and is unsure what his future plans will be.

are affected by these ramps be brought together and a new solution found that is fair to everyone involved.

Signed by 31 merchants including Akropolis Travel, Century 21—Gibraltar Realty, China Pepper Restaurant, Church Produce, Church Street Laundromat, Connie's Hair Stylist, Danny's Cleaners, DeLorenzo Media, Drewes Meats, Great Hair Cuts, the Hair Place, Hall Realty, Hungry Joe's, Laurel Realty, Mikeytom Market, Napra Back and Muscle, Norma's and Hilda's Beauty Salons, Omega Television, Pacific Family Practice, Savio and Skelley Dentistry, Sonia's Hairstyle Salon, Star Bakery, Stellings Market, Top Drawer, Twin Peaks Pizza, Valentine's Cafe, Verona Pizza, Veteran's Liquor Store



At Cybelle's Pizza, David Purzycki, Tuca de Oliveira, Neal Meyers, and Renata Porto look forward to their move to the recently vacated Noe's Grill, at 24th and Church. A new tortilla parlor, Wrap Works, will take over Cybelle's spot this spring. Photo by Charles Kennord

As for the new kid on the block, Wrap Works plans to open in May, assuming the permit process goes smoothly. Hours of operation have been tentatively set for 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. (midnight on weekends).

In December, Wrap Works representatives attended meetings of the Friends of Noe Valley and the East & West of Castro Street Improvement Club. Jane Winslow, community liaison for the restaurant, along with two architects working on the storefront design, presented their sketches for a new exterior.

So far, the feedback from the neighborhood has been positive. "The design should be a great improvement," says Friends treasurer Georgia Finnigan. "It's very tasteful."

Friends board member Cecile Lozano agrees: "Wrap Works is keeping the Victorian flavor of the building, and they took the architecture of the neighborhood into consideration."

Finnigan adds that Friends of Noe Valley has developed a good working relationship with Wrap Works. She noted that

the restaurant is not affected by the current moratorium on food takeouts on 24th Street because it is replacing Cybelle's, a similar operation.

In return, Wrap Works has dropped plans for a patio and for outside tables and chairs. (Sidewalk seating at that location was prohibited anyway.) The chain has also promised to minimize its impact on noise, odors, and garbage on 24th Street.

Restaurant spokesperson Winslow said those who'd like to preview the menu should visit the Wrap Works already in operation on Union Street near Laguna. The takeout specializes in large folded tortillas with meat, fish, bean, or veggie fillings spiced with a variety of international flavors.

According to Winslow, Noe Valley's Wrap Works will also offer juice drinks and smoothies, with optional vitamin spikes. However, the main fare will be "wraps" with pun-intended names like Coat & Thai Chicken, In Like Fin, Hail Caesar, and Madame Curry.

And that's...a wrap.

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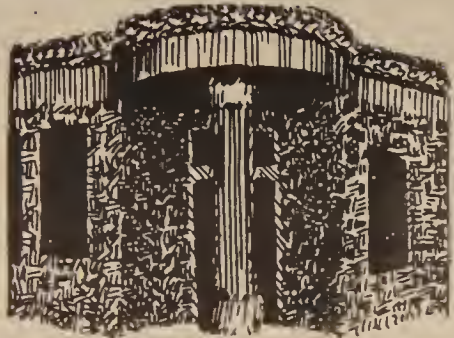
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Noe Churches Dole Out Medical Marijuana

By Allison Hoover Bartlett

After months of preparing, two Noe Valley churches have finally become distribution sites for medical marijuana.

On Dec. 2, the Healing Alternatives Foundation (HAF) began selling marijuana to pre-screened patients one day a week at Golden Gate Metropolitan Community Church. In February and March, the foundation will shift its operation to another Noe Valley venue, Bethany United Methodist Church. The churches will continue to be part of a rotating schedule indefinitely.

"I'm surprised by how uneventful this has been," says Rev. Sharna Sutherin of Golden Gate MCC, at Church and 27th streets. "People, some of whom are obviously very ill, come here, get their medical marijuana, and then leave. It all happens very quietly."

Every Tuesday afternoon from 3 to 5 p.m., 20 to 40 people enter the church's sanctuary to pick up and pay for their doctor-prescribed marijuana, an herb that has been shown to alleviate the symptoms of cancer, AIDS, glaucoma, multiple sclerosis, and other illnesses, as well as reduce the side effects of treatments such as chemotherapy.

As reported in the November 1996 *Voice*, Healing Alternatives staffers (not church members) dispense the pot in eighth-ounce baggies priced at \$20 or \$60, depending on the grade. Once their clients have received their allotment—no more than a quarter of an ounce per week—they are asked to leave the church grounds and to smoke or ingest the marijuana elsewhere.

A month into the distribution at Golden Gate MCC, Sutherin says that there has been almost no feedback, negative or positive, from the community. The recipients of the pot, however, have expressed their gratitude to church members, some of whom volunteer to sit with the ill while they wait their turn in the sanctuary.

Three blocks away at Bethany Church, at the corner of Clipper and Sanchez, Rev. Karen Oliveto is enthusiastic about her church's becoming a distribution site for February and March (probably on Tuesdays, says Matthew Sharp, executive director of the Healing Alternatives Foundation). The congregation has been waiting for the go-ahead since October.

Like Sutherin, Oliveto has been surprised by the lack of protest, either from her neighbors or from United Methodist congregations around the country, who had been notified of Bethany's plans by the church's national office.

"I've been expecting outrage from middle America," she said, "but the only calls I get are supportive. Most of the people who call have loved ones who are sick, and they want to know how to get marijuana for them."

Foundation director Sharp said that in early January HAF had about 250 people approved for medical marijuana. The foundation is a nonprofit organization established in 1989 to offer vitamins, minerals, herbs, and certain experimental drugs for treatment of AIDS and other life-threatening diseases.

HAF, which has an office on Market Street, started selling the pot following the August shutdown of the city's Cannabis Buyers' Club. (In mid-January, the Buyers' Club reopened as the San Francisco Cannabis Cultivators Club. A Superior Court judge allowed the reopening in light of the November passage of Proposition 215, which legalized possession and cultivation of marijuana for medical use in California.)

Sharp added that in addition to Bethany and Golden Gate MCC, two other San Francisco churches—the Metropolitan Community Church on Castro Street and the Dolores Street Baptist Church on Valencia Street—would continue to serve in the Healing Alternatives Foundation's rotating group of sites.

For information on patient intake or distribution schedules, call HAF at 626-2316. Or if you have questions for the churches, call Rev. Sutherin of Golden Gate MCC at 642-0294 or Rev. Oliveto of Bethany at 647-8393. □

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A Tribute to Jim Augustino

Continued from Page 1

commonly known by San Franciscans as 'Augie Pier.'" The resolution is set to go before the Port Commission for final approval on Feb. 11.

Besides being an avid fisherman, Augustino was a businessman who played a key role in two of San Francisco's most ambitious development projects over the past 15 years—Yerba Buena Center and the proposed Mission Bay development.

In the early 1980s he worked for Olympia and York, developer of Yerba Buena Center in the South of Market area. From 1984 to 1995 he was vice president of Catellus Development Corp., the firm that planned Mission Bay, a complex of housing, offices, and parks along the city's southern waterfront. In 1995, Augustino left Catellus to found his own land development firm, the Augustino Co.

Heller said that Augustino's younger years as a community activist taught him many of the skills that came into play during his tenure with Yerba Buena and Mission Bay. "He had worked for years with different community groups, so when he had to sell these projects to various organizations, he knew what he was doing."

In fact, one of Heller's first impressions of Augustino was as a community volunteer. The two met in 1976, and their first date was crab fishing at Muni Pier near the Marina Green, she said. At that time, Augustino was volunteering as a tutor for the Telegraph Hill Neighborhood Center.

"A boy from the projects he had tutored came rolling down the pier on his skateboard to talk to us. His name was Louie and he was about 11," she recalled. "Jim knew the whole family and they got along real well. Louie's sisters came to the memorial last month."

Augustino later became director of the Telegraph Hill Neighborhood Center. At various times over the past 20 years, he served as president of the Telegraph Hill Dwellers, as a political aide to former San Francisco supervisor John Molinari, and as a member of the board of directors of the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce. He also worked on the Save San Bruno Mountain campaign, a drive to stop the area from being developed.

"He believed in open spaces," says Heller. "But he was very much an urban person. The thought of moving out of the city never entered his mind. He spent a lot of his energy working to make the city a more livable place."

Augustino and Heller have also been outspoken supporters of public schools. They chose to send their two children, Harley and Carson, to the Japanese bilingual program at Clarendon Elementary School. "We believed that the world was getting smaller and that it was important to be bilingual. And San Francisco is so international, it's good to feel connected to other parts of the world."

The elder son, Harley, continued to take Japanese classes and has visited Japan. He later attended Lowell High School, where he was an all-star pitcher on the baseball team.

The Heller-Augustino family moved to Elizabeth Street in Noe Valley in 1987. The couple separated three years ago, and Augustino moved to a nearby apartment. However, he spent a considerable amount of time at the family home in order to be with his sons.

"Jim took very seriously his responsibilities as a father. He was a terrific father and a wonderful co-parent," says Heller.

In fact, Heller believes that many people in Noe Valley knew him first and foremost as Harley and Carson's dad. "He



One of Noe Valley's "great dads," Jim Augustino, shown here flanked by his sons, Harley and Carson (right), died Dec. 23 after being trapped in a blizzard in the Sierras. His friends and family plan to honor his civic contributions—and his passion for fishing—by renaming San Francisco's Pier 7 "Augie Pier." Photo courtesy of Susan Heller

played ball with the boys and their friends. He took them fishing and showed them how to tie fishing lines. And he was a great listener.

"I know that many of Carson and Harley's friends came to the memorial not just to support the boys, but also because they knew and loved Jim in such a profound way."

Elizabeth Street neighbor Teresa Sulli-

van concurred. She met Augustino through his son Harley, whom she often saw out walking the family dog, Pound Dog (or P.D. as she is called).

"Jim was over every day to see his kids, and we'd always see him at the park playing ball with them," she said. "The newspapers have had a lot of coverage about his work as a developer or an activist. But nobody has written about what a great dad

he was. I believe that being an outstanding father was the most important thing he did."

Carson, 13, attends Rooftop School, where he is active in sports and has made a number of friends who live in the Twin Peaks neighborhood. "The Rooftop community has been terrific support for us in this time of grief," said Heller.

Both boys, but Carson in particular, have also been helped by seven of Augustino and Heller's friends, who have been deemed "uncles" and are committed to watching out for them.

Harley recently returned to his freshman year at the University of California at Santa Barbara, where he is recovering from the frostbite he suffered in the storm. Heller said her son was back in his second-floor dormitory room, having "graduated from a wheelchair to crutches."

"He is healing and gaining the use of his legs a lot faster than anyone expected," she added. "But it will still be a while before he is fully recovered."

A memorial service for Augustino was held Dec. 28 at the Golden Gate Yacht Club. The family prefers that donations be made to either the Telegraph Hill Neighborhood Youth Fund, 660 Lombard St., San Francisco, CA 94133, or to the Tahoe Nordic Search and Rescue Team, P.O. Box 7703, Tahoe City, CA 96145. □

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POLICE BEAT

Robberies Always Take a Toll

By Officer Lois Perillo

Noe Valley experienced an odd pattern of robberies from October to mid-January. This neighborhood — or at least the area from Valencia to Grand View, and Cesar Chavez to 21st Street — usually clocks in with an average of four robberies per month, which is low relative to comparable areas throughout the city.

I was relieved to find that there were no reported robberies during December.

But there were six robberies in November — including an armed robbery of a store, and an incident in which the victim was robbed of a jacket by an acquaintance, then assaulted. Three robberies took place in October.

As for the new year, there were three robberies in the first half of January, including an armed robbery of a store, an attempted armed robbery of three women out for a walk (*see story, page 21*), and a \$3 tip-jar theft that became a robbery when the suspect pushed the clerk who confronted him.

Robbery, which is the taking of property from another using force or fear, always costs its victims more than the value of the stolen property. Sometimes medical treatment is required, and counseling is often advisable — preferably from a peer who listens, reflects, and validates the person's ordeal.

In the first November robbery, on Nov. 1 at 4 p.m., a 14-year-old boy was walking east on Duncan near Douglass Street when he was approached by three 15-year-olds who demanded money. One suspect held a thick rubber bungee cord with metal hooks in a threatening manner, so the targeted boy handed over whatever he had. The suspects fled west on Duncan with several stolen dollars.

On Nov. 12 at 6 p.m., a 25-year-old clerk in a local store was held up by a man in his 30s who showed her the gun's handle in his pocket, then demanded money. The clerk was able to dial 911 on the store's fax machine before complying. The suspect ordered the worker into the bathroom, then left, briefly speaking to a customer who had just entered the store. By the time police arrived, the suspect had fled north on Diamond to Elizabeth.

The next robbery occurred Nov. 21 at around 6:30 p.m. After withdrawing money from the Wells Fargo ATM on 24th near Noe, a 29-year-old woman was robbed of her wallet by two suspects riding a red scooter. The woman was knocked down by the suspects' actions, but did not require medical aid.

On the same day at 7 p.m., a 37-year-old man was robbed of his jacket while in his apartment on the 4100 block of Cesar Chavez. The 21-year-old suspect was an acquaintance who sometimes stayed with him. The suspect assaulted his host, who tried unsuccessfully to retrieve the stolen jacket. Because the suspect was known by the victim, this case was assigned to the Robbery Detail and investigated by an inspector. However, the case was cleared after the District Attorney's Office refused to prosecute.

On Nov. 28 at 9:30 p.m., a 35-year-old man robbed a woman of her purse on the 400 block of Fair Oaks by surprising her from behind, pushing her forward, then

pulling backwards on the purse. The woman had just parked and exited her car.

At about 9:45 the same evening, a man in his 20s robbed a 43-year-old woman who was waiting for the bus at Castro and Elizabeth streets. As the bus pulled up, the suspect approached from behind and tore the targeted woman's bag from her shoulder, leaving only the bag's strap. The woman reported that the suspect held a screwdriver during the robbery, then fled east on Elizabeth in a waiting black pickup truck.

Burglars Celebrate the Holidays

Residential burglaries rose from four in November to 11 in December. On Nov. 4 between 9 and 11 a.m., three apartments were broken into: one each on the 900 block of Dolores, the 100 block of Chattanooga, and the 400 block of Fair Oaks.

One commercial burglary occurred on Nov. 13. A 46-year-old male suspect entered a local bank at 11:20 a.m. and attempted to cash a stolen and fraudulent check. The teller uncovered the crime and notified police, who arrested and charged the suspect with three felonies: receiving stolen property, check fraud, and burglary. (Yes, a petty theft suspect may also be charged with felony burglary if he shows intent to enter a premise to commit theft.) However, when I checked the case's status, I found that it had been "dismissed in the interest of justice."

Seven apartment break-ins occurred during December, mostly on Mondays and Tuesdays. The victims' homes were on Dolores, Elizabeth, Guerrero, Chattanooga, Chavez (twice), and Hill streets. Two of the burglaries were termed "hot prowls," in other words they took place while people were inside the residence.

On Dec. 9, sometime between 11 p.m. and 6 a.m., an unknown suspect entered an occupied apartment on the 3600 block of 24th Street, probably via the front door, which had not been deadbolted. The burglar stole a laptop computer, keys, and a daypack in which to carry the loot.

The other "hot prowls" took place Dec. 29 sometime between 2:30 and 5:30 a.m., on the 500 block of Hill Street. While the residents slept, an unknown suspect gained entry to their apartment, probably through an unlocked bathroom window, and stole jewelry, a wallet, and a jacket. A crime tech responded and lifted fingerprints from the scene.

Several corner markets were targeted in unsuccessful burglary attempts, while two other markets were broken into in late December. In both cases, the suspects gained access to the stores by breaking the front door.

Local Man Nabbed

With the help of an alert witness who notified police, a 32-year-old suspect was caught after burglarizing a business on the 4200 block of 24th Street.

On Dec. 7 at about 4 a.m., the witness called police after hearing the sound of a door being kicked in, then described the suspect and gave his direction of travel. Mission Police Sergeant Pablo Ossio responded and caught the suspect at Douglass and Jersey streets.

The suspect, who is a resident of the 900 block of Douglass and on probation for burglary, was booked and ultimately sent back to jail on a probation violation.

Prince Abuga's Scam

An 80-year-old man who lives in Noe Valley was the target of a bait-and-switch scam last month. He was approached by a man in his late 20s who claimed to be an African prince by the name of Abuga. The "prince" said he held a voucher worth \$100,000, which he wanted to donate to charity. Abuga told the older man that he needed cash to redeem the voucher.

Continued on Page 12

Film Hopes to Expose the Causes of Breast Cancer

By Allison Hoover Bartlett

The camera is steady. The young woman speaks. "I was first diagnosed with breast cancer in 1993 at the age of 28.... One and a half years later, I was diagnosed with metastatic breast cancer, and it was in my liver and my bones. I also had a brain tumor.... I never anticipated that I wouldn't get breast cancer again, but I always thought I'd have a little more time."

These poignant words, spoken by Jenny Mendosa, fill just two minutes of the 60 hours of film that have been shot for *Rachel's Daughters*, an investigative documentary on known and suspected causes of breast cancer.

Nancy Evans, a 12-year resident of Cesar Chavez Street, is coproducer of this compelling detective story, due to be released next fall. She is collaborating with Glen Park filmmakers Allie Light and Irving Saraf, who have won Emmy and Academy awards for their documentary films *Dialogues with Madwomen* (1993) and *In the Shadow of the Stars* (1991).

As a woman living with breast cancer, Evans is also one of the subjects of the film.

Rachel's Daughters is named after environmental activist and breast cancer victim Rachel Carson, who in her 1962 book *Silent Spring* warned people of the dangers of pollution. The film features eight women "investigators," all living with breast cancer, who travel around the country, visiting research centers and contamination sites and challenging and

interviewing top experts in the field (one of whom also has breast cancer).

A former publishing executive and medical writer, Evans first became involved in *Rachel's Daughters* through her role as president of Breast Cancer Action (BCA), a nonprofit organization that is a catalyst for the prevention and cure of breast cancer. She now serves as a vice president and board member.

"Around Christmas, two years ago, the Sunday *Examiner* magazine ran a piece on what celebrities wished for," says Evans. "Allie Light was quoted as saying she wished for a cure for breast cancer." The statement caught Evans' eye.

When she met with Light and her partner, Irving Saraf, "the chemistry was great," says Evans. "We liked each other instantly." It turned out that Light and Saraf were already planning a documentary on the causes of breast cancer.

"They told me, 'We want to do a film about breast cancer because our daughter has it. She's 39,'" says Evans. "They knew that her prognosis was not good, because if you get it before 50, tumors tend to be more aggressive."

Light and Saraf had also heard about Breast Cancer Action through a neighbor in Glen Park who had a daughter with breast cancer.

"Now these daughters with breast cancer—when there's no family history of it—that's an unnatural disaster," says Evans, a 59-year-old mother and grandmother. "It's so hard to figure out. It's so hard on the parents. To have your child die...that's not the way it's supposed to be."

When Evans talks about the film, her focus is on the subject, and not on any celebrity status she might stand to gain.

"We want people to use this film as an educational tool," she explains. "We must build coalitions to educate people about the link between environmental hazards and cancer, to protect ourselves and our kids."

Originally, there were seven women investigators in the film, but since Jenny Mendosa died before filming was complete (just before her 32nd birthday), an eighth woman was added. In the course of the film, which is expected to be 90 to 100 minutes long, the women interview more than 20 scientists, researchers, and physicians, asking them to describe their research into the disease.

Light found most of her investigators through the Women's Cancer Resource Center in Berkeley. She made an effort to enlist women from different backgrounds. "We want all women to be able to identify with the film," Evans points out.

Interviewer Essie Mornen is a retired vocational nurse who grew up in rural Mississippi. Lori Pascarella lost her job as a telephone lineperson after asking questions about exposure to electromagnetic fields. Carla Dalton is a licensed acupuncturist. Rachel Morello-Frosch is a doctoral student in public health. Pamela Sims-Durall worked in a law office until she was diagnosed, at which time she too lost her job. Susan Claymon, a cofounder of Breast Cancer Action, worked in marketing at the Shaklee Corporation. And, of course, there's Nancy Evans, who was diagnosed in 1991.

"Of all the women," says Evans, "Susan and I have had the greatest advantages: education, access to care, access to insurance—all advantages of being white and in a higher socioeconomic group. But what we all have in common is that we wish it hadn't happened. We identify with each other's fears."

The women in *Rachel's Daughters* look at a variety of known and possible causes of breast cancer, including pesticides, hazardous waste, the nuclear industry, ionizing radiation in medicine, electromagnetic fields (non-ionizing radiation), hormones, genetic factors, and various work situations.



Oscar winners Irving Saraf and Allie Light (in back) have teamed up with Noe Valley activist Nancy Evans to make a documentary film about the causes of breast cancer. Photo by Charles Kennard

What they hope to find are answers—and if they find them, says Evans, "We can say, 'This is what's happening to women. Here are the culprits. Get them out of our lives so this won't happen to other women!'"

The film was shot in areas with high rates of cancer: Long Island, N.Y.; the Great Lakes area; American Indian reservations; the Utah "downwinders"; and the San Francisco Bay Area, long considered a breast cancer "hot spot."

In addition to interviews, *Rachel's Daughters* includes historical footage of planes spraying pesticides and doctors peddling x-ray equipment. The clips feature the frighteningly jovial, authoritative voiceovers common to educational films of the 1950s and '60s. Evans says she and the crew are also trying to find film of the "shoe machines" of the early '50s.

Continued on Page 12

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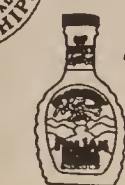
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Eight Women Search for Clues to Breast Cancer

Continued from Page 11

"Back then, the shoe stores had these tall machines. You'd look through the top and see [an x-ray of] the bones in your feet — ostensibly to see if the shoes fit. The thing was encased in plywood at best. It was a fluoroscopy machine emitting radiation," says Evans. "Of course, the kids loved them."

As coproducer, Evans says, "My main job is to find money. But since this is a low-budget [\$250,000] film, everyone does everything." She even drove the film's van from Boston to New York to Washington, D.C.

"You have to be a one-man band," she notes. "If we were in Hollywood, we'd have hundreds of people to help us. Instead, we have to send actors out to get lunch. It is not the glamour of Tinseltown!"

Of course, Evans, who is currently in remission from cancer, has done much more than drive the van. "I'm also present for the actual filming sessions. Then I meet with Allie and Irving to talk about what we liked or disliked about an interview. I've been the major contact with people to be interviewed, and they've

been so gracious in making time for us."

She describes how the ambience of each place affects the quality of the interview. "At the National Cancer Institute, which is in this windowless building, the interviews were much stiffer and more formal than, for example, the one we did with a scientist on vacation at her childhood home. It was more relaxed and informal and interesting. It had a whole different tone.

"The process of making the film has been very illuminating," she adds. "Allie and Irving are real pros. I now know it's a lot easier to get words on paper. It's hard to get people to be clear on complex issues. Editing will be difficult. We have about 60 hours for a 90-minute film."

Light and Saraf are currently "cutting" the film — selecting the cinematic gems and discarding the rest.

According to Evans, the filmmakers haven't decided where *Rachel's Daughters* will premiere, but they're leaning toward San Francisco. (Light and Saraf first showed *Dialogues with Madwomen* at the Castro Theater.)

She mentions that HBO and PBS have shown interest in the film. Then she reels off the many other avenues for distribution: anti-pesticide groups and health and women's organizations, for instance. This is clearly where the thrill lies for Evans.

As she says, "It is my hope that in seeing this film, people will make the link between politics and pollution and our lack of progress" in the fight against breast cancer. □

POLICE

Continued from Page 10

The man got into Abuga's car, and they headed for the bank. Enroute, Abuga picked up a "business associate," and they all three drove to a bank, where the associate presumably withdrew \$5,000.

The elderly man then took a hefty cash advance on his own credit card, and gave the cash to Abuga in exchange for the supposed \$5,000, now bundled in a red handkerchief. The suspects then dropped the man at his Noe Valley home. When the man opened the handkerchief, he found rolled-up newspaper.

Please talk to your elder relatives, friends, and neighbors about this kind of con. Another one that surfaces often is the bank examiner scam, where a person phones the victim and feigns to be a bank executive needing information. Never reveal Social Security or account numbers over the phone, unless you have placed the call to a credible business.

Also, be wary of people who come to your door unsolicited and offer to repair your roof, gutters, or fence. They may represent themselves as contractors in order to gain access to your home for an in-

spection. This only gives them an opportunity to steal. Check references and never sign anything before talking with a trusted adviser. Avoid paying in cash.

More 'Dispos'

Two of the three men involved in last year's home-invasion robbery on the 800 block of Duncan were sentenced to state prison for two years in November. Both pled guilty to "a felony in possession of a firearm." The third man, who had been on parole for involuntary manslaughter from an April 1992 case, was remanded to the California Department of Corrections to serve a three-year sentence.

A 25-year-old whom I arrested Nov. 2 on the 4200 block of 23rd Street (for assaulting her sister while under the influence of alcohol and possibly drugs) was found eligible to attend court-ordered substance abuse treatment and is scheduled for a progress report on March 10.

Until next time, be safe and see you on patrol. □

Community Police Officer Lois Perillo covers a beat that runs from 21st to Cesar Chavez Street and from Valencia to Grand View. You can reach her at Mission Station, 558-5400. To speak with a police officer in the part of Noe Valley south of Cesar Chavez (within the Ingleside Police District), call 553-1603.



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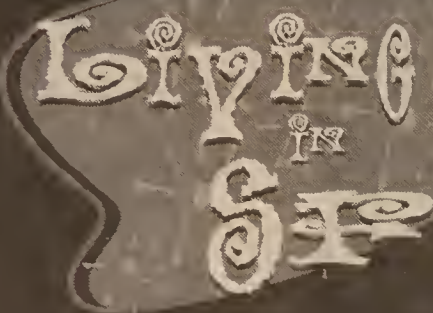
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Jazzercise with Jan—a Real Heartwarming Experience

By Douglas A. Konecky

The music is loud and does not stop. You can't make it stop. You can make yourself stop, but if you do, you will look around and everyone else will still be moving, so you might as well keep moving too. It's hard to know what hurts more, the joint in your right knee, the pain in your lungs, or the sweat in your eyes.

It is a Saturday morning in October at Jan Hennefer's Jazzercise class at Edison Elementary School, on 22nd Street between Dolores and Chattanooga.

This Saturday morning the small gym has filled up with women in tights, women in sweatshirts, women on mats, and women with weights. Also present are three men, including Doug, a writer for the *Noe Valley Voice*, who is not sure right now if he is a man or a mouse. The workout has been going on for less than 10 minutes and already his heart is pounding. He may be having a stroke.

Chaka Khan is blaring from Hennefer's stereo, and all the Jazzercisers are doing Hennefer's latest eight-step move: slide, hop, step, stoop, slide back the other way, stoop, jump, clap. These moves are not easy to figure out. If Doug squats, the class jumps. If he goes up, they go down. If he turns left, he runs into everyone turning right.

"Atta girl, Nancy!" Hennefer yells, encouraging the woman who's wearing a Giants tee shirt over a 49ers shirt and who is flying gracefully through the routines despite being almost seven months pregnant. "Work for two, girl! Whoop!" Hennefer shouts.

Hennefer shouts "Whoop!" after practically every sentence. She is without a doubt the most enthusiastic person in the Western Hemisphere. With her freckles, her blond hair pulled back in a ponytail, and her chiseled body in constant motion, she looks like the cheerleader she used to be.

"Inhale! Don't stop! Toes! Whoop!" she cries, jumping up and down on the stage without a bead appearing on her brow.

She looks 30. But amazingly, Hennefer turns 50 years old today. She is older than practically everyone in the room, and is gliding circles around them all.

Hennefer has been coming to San Francisco from Castro Valley to give these classes at Edison for more than 10 years, and has been involved with Jazzercise for 18. Jazzercise is a franchise, and each teacher, while required to use the carefully choreographed music designed by the organization, nonetheless places his or her personal mark on the workout.

"I want them to be problem-solvers," says Hennefer. "Making themselves feel good is the first step."

As a certified personal trainer and the owner of her own company, Healthy Advantage, Hennefer—when she's not doing Jazzercise—also goes into corporations and helps them tone up the work force. Her company's slogan, "One dollar saves four," maintains that in the long run, a dollar spent on health equals four in profits.

"They listen to me unless the CEO is fat and out of shape," Hennefer says.

But at Edison everybody listens to Hennefer. And because Jazzercisers are fiercely territorial, each one listens from the exact same spot on the gym floor, week after week, year after year. Meredith, a lawyer, always stands next to Pat, a legal secretary, who stands next to Limmie, a dancer and ex-Jazzercise instructor, who stands next to Cynthia, who does financial investments.

Today this subgroup is kind enough to move over to include Doug the writer, but only for a short time, because at any moment his arteries are going to burst.

Doug plays basketball every week and is in reasonably good shape. He had thought this aerobics thing would be easy, kind of a "woman's thing," where everyone would stand around and expose their feelings but not actually work out very hard, and certainly not sweat. Doug was very, very foolish and ill-informed. He figures he has under a minute until his first heart attack.

But no. Hennefer is watching. The music stops. The mats come out. Everyone straps on ankle weights and wrist stretchers, and lies down on their mat. Doug really likes lying down on his mat. He is happy until Hennefer makes everyone raise their legs up in the air and keep them there for a VERY long time.

The students stretch their legs, and they scissor-kick their legs, and they bicycle-pedal their legs. They hold them up in the air long enough for it to dawn on Doug that 37 of the 40 people in this room are women, and have different groins, and therefore might not be feeling in their groins what he is feeling in his.

Doug looks to Limmie for sympathy,

Continued on Page 15

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Ten years of getting jazzed with Jan Hennefer on Saturday mornings at Edison School have led to some strong bonds. Photo by Beverly Tharp

Whoop It Up at Jan's Jazzercise

Continued from Page 14

but Limmie is in incredible shape, and his groin seems to be enduring this test of fire without incident. The women, of course, are just fine. They lie on their backs, calmly humming Lionel Richie songs as their legs cut purposefully through the air.

"Okay! Let's go! Burn it! Whoop!" shouts Hennefer, and the group is back on its feet for the final 10 minutes of fire. Aretha, the Eurythmics, and Grace Jones blare from the speakers as the class glides left and right, singing the choruses and cheering as the secondhand counts down to the end of this morning's workout.

By the time the hour is up, no one, not even Doug, has died. Actually, everyone feels pretty darn good.

Today, after everybody has towed off, they're throwing a special party for Hennefer in celebration of her birthday, at a fellow Jazzerciser's home only a few doors away. There are homemade baked goods, fresh juices, and other healthy, delicious things to eat. Best of all, there is the camaraderie of this group of people, who are as dedicated to their teacher as

she is to them.

Doug cannot help contrasting this gathering with his weekly basketball game, where the only thing anyone knows about anyone else is whether or not they have new basketball shoes. Men don't do groups like women do groups, he has decided. Within this Jazzercise group is a true feeling of sharing and caring.

In fact, Hennefer serves as resident psychologist for not just a few of her flock. People come to her to talk about their burdens, their dissolving marriages, their troubled children.

"The exercise is what first pulls you in and makes you feel good," says one of her fans. "But Jan is the catalyst—she tells us we're special, and we believe her, because she not only listens but understands. Without Jan, it's just another exercise class."

Hennefer, in turn, will tell you that she has shared her own emotional ups and downs with her students. It's not clear if all Jazzercise classes are this cozy, but Hennefer's certainly is.

At the end of the morning, longtime Jazzerciser Martha Chesley offers this birthday toast: "To Jan," she says, "who shows us how to walk in beauty."

Everyone laughs and raises a glass to Hennefer.

"Eat plenty and drink up," she smiles. "We'll work it all off on Monday!" □

Jazzercise classes with Jan Hennefer take place at Edison Elementary School at 6 p.m. Monday, 5:30 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday, and 9 a.m. Saturday. Additional classes, given by Hennefer's business partner Andy Maltzer, are offered at 6:45 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday, 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, and 10:15 a.m. Saturday.

The cost for a single class is \$6, but discounts are available. Mats are provided, but if you want to make the workout even harder, you optimistic fool, you must bring your own weights. For more information, call Hennefer at 675-0409.

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Join us Saturday morning, February 22, 1997, in Davies Auditorium from 9:00 a.m. to noon (the forum includes a continental breakfast). To reserve a place, receive a flyer, or obtain further information, please call the Women's Care Community Events line at 565-6567.

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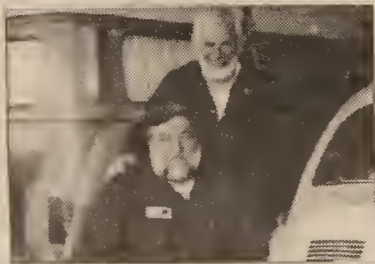
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SHORT TAKES

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Congratulations, Noe Valley! Last September, the San Francisco Recycling Program announced it would donate \$7,500 to city parks if neighborhoods such as Noe Valley increased their recycling by 10 percent. Not only did we beat that goal, we recycled more garbage than any other neighborhood.

S.F. Recycling spokesperson David Assmann confirmed that "the biggest increase was in Noe Valley, where recycling rose 17 percent during the three-month campaign—more than 50 percent better than the average for the entire set of neighborhoods."

Still, our sister neighborhoods stuffed a lot in their blue bins, too. The Castro, Diamond Heights, Dolores Heights, Glen Park, and Twin Peaks all reached their mark, recycling an average of 11 percent more during the campaign.

Assmann said the \$7,500 grant, which will be awarded to the Friends of Recreation and Parks, will go toward new equipment, plants, benches, and ongoing maintenance for all neighborhood parks.

Though the campaign ended in December, readers are urged to keep recycling their paper, bottles, and cans. For a list of items the program accepts, call San Francisco Recycling at 554-3400.

City Hall Satellites

Want to make sure that sinkhole in front of your house is patched up before somebody falls in? Having trouble getting through to DPW?

You might try calling one of several offices that have been set up to help residents grapple with city bureaucracy.

In November the city launched a new Department of Neighborhood Services (DNS). As a pilot project, the DNS created "mini-City Halls" in four neighborhoods: the Sunset, Bayview-Hunters Point, Chinatown, and the Outer Mission.

These satellites are staffed by representatives from city departments, including Planning, Recreation and Park, Parking and Traffic, Public Works, and the Mayor's Office.

Although residents can visit or call any neighborhood City Hall, the closest one to Noe Valley is the Outer Mission, located in the OMI (Outer Mission/Ingle-side) Community Center, 446 Randolph St.; 337-4830. Hours are Mondays, 9 a.m. to noon, and Wednesdays, 5 to 8 p.m.

Paul Rosetter, a staffer at OMI, says he's received complaints about illegally parked or abandoned cars, and fallen trees after the recent storms. "But it's been a low volume of calls so far," he says.

This month the Mayor's Office will

evaluate the project to see whether it should be expanded to other city neighborhoods. Eleven more centers might be added, including one for Noe Valley.

"We're trying to build our neighborhood base," says Bevan Dufty, director of the Mayor's Neighborhood Outreach Program, "and we're very open to ideas and feedback." (Call Dufty at 554-7111.)

In fact, Noe Valley already has its own liaison at City Hall: Dean Goodwin. Goodwin is available by phone, 554-4078, or e-mail (dean_goodwin@ci.sf.ca.us), to answer questions about everything from sidewalk maintenance, graffiti, and tree-trimming, to crime, code enforcement, traffic and parking, and youth activities.

Artaria Quartet Wins Grant

The Noe Valley Chamber Music Series is pleased to announce that it has received a \$2,500 grant from the BankAmerica Foundation to fund the outreach program of its new resident ensemble, the Artaria Quartet.

Says Karen Heather, director of the series, "We're really excited—it's a shot in the arm for us and the quartet."

The grant will pay for five of the 40 performances the quartet has committed to doing over the first year of its residency. The classical musicians will be playing on four different occasions at senior centers in the city, and have also planned performances at Mt. Zion and U.C.S.F. hospitals. In addition, the group will continue to perform at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St., where the Chamber Music Series is housed.

On Sunday, Feb. 16, at 2 p.m., the Artaria Quartet will present the second of three concerts in a mini-series titled "From the Inside Out." The concert, featuring selections by Boccherini, Giuliani, and Hayden, will be followed by a discussion, "Echoes of Spain: The Guitar in Chamber Music," with guitarist Richard Savino as special guest. "The quartet will be talking about how the guitar and strings mix in chamber music, and about chamber music in general," says Heather.

Admission is \$12 for adults, \$6 for seniors and students.

For further information about Noe Valley Chamber Music's Sunday afternoon concerts, call Heather at 282-2317.

Some Friendly Awards

The stated purpose of the Friends of Noe Valley, in addition to giving Noe Valley residents a more collective voice at City Hall, is "to initiate and support beneficial neighborhood projects."

So in November members voted to award grants to three neighborhood groups: \$350 to the Noe Valley—Sally Brunn Library to help pay for a tool shed, hose hangers, and compost bins; \$250 to the Jamestown Youth-In-Charge program to fund four leadership training workshops; and \$100 to the Friends of the Urban Forest, for planting trees in Noe Valley.



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SHORT TAKES

Continued from Page 16

This was the first time the Friends have awarded neighborhood grants. If you would like to inquire about future grants, give Friends member Cecile Lozano a call at 695-9502.

It's Almost Baseball Season

The San Francisco Youth Baseball League, which for the past eight years has served 3,000 boys and girls, is currently seeking players, coaches, and umpires for the 1997 spring season.

Players 5 to 14 can sign up for one of five age divisions. January is sign-up month, but stragglers will be accepted on a space-available basis through the second week of February.

Baseball season starts April 5 and runs into early June. Kids must make a minimum commitment of two practices and one game a week.

Coaches must be at least 18 years old and pass a background check. Umpires must be 15 or older and must attend an umpires' clinic given by the league.

For more information on players or coaches, call the San Francisco Police Activities League (PAL) at 695-6935. For information on umpiring, contact Roger Bross at 586-9600.

The city's Youth Baseball League is tri-sponsored by the San Francisco Recreation and Park Department, the Police Activities League, and FLAME Athletics (San Francisco Fire Department).

Dan Hicks Plays Music Series

The Noe Valley Music Series has a stellar lineup for February.

First, Dan Hicks and his Acoustic Warriors will bring their nifty blend of rhythmic jazz, western swing, and "folk noir" to the Noe Valley Ministry on Feb. 1. Hicks has rode a wave of popularity since the '60s, when as Dan Hicks and the Hot Licks, he recorded the hit "How Can I Miss You If You Won't Go Away?"

Says Larry Kassin, founder and director of the Noe Valley Music Series, "Dan always does really great shows—he's got a hot group and has been working with new producers." Tickets are \$13 in advance and \$15 at the door.

On Feb. 8 the series celebrates Black History Month with a concert by Tarika Sammy, an ensemble from Madagascar Island off the southeast coast of Africa. Playing on a variety of indigenous Malagasy instruments, the group mixes complex rhythms and harmonies with contemporary vocal styles. "A bogus version of the band toured the world in the early '90s, but this is the real thing," says Kassin, noting that the Noe Valley concert will be Tarika Sammy's only show in the Bay Area. Tickets are \$12 and \$14.

Next on Feb. 15, the Music Series celebrates its 16th anniversary with a concert featuring Stephen Kent (who plays with the band Didgeridoo), vocalist Eda Maxym, and friends. The group falls in the world-music category, with a special emphasis on Middle-Eastern and Aborigine sounds. Tickets are \$10 and \$12.

Gamelan Sekar Jaya winds up the series on Feb. 22, with a performance of traditional Balinese music and dance, featuring guest musicians and dancers from Bali. Tickets are \$10 and \$12. (Kassin

Continued on Page 18



To Infinity and Beyond. Earthquake retrofitting is in clear evidence at St. Paul's on Church Street as crews extend scaffolding to the top of the church's spires. Photo by Najib Joe Hakim

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SHORT TAKES

Continued from Page 17

notes that Gamelan shows are always very popular—so get your tickets early!

For more information about the Noe Valley Music Series, located in the Noe Valley Ministry at 1021 Sanchez St., call 454-5238. Advance tickets are available at Streetlight Records, 3979 24th St.

All concerts begin at 8:15 p.m.

Go to College at Everett

Although spring semester instruction began on Jan. 21, you've got until Feb. 3 to sign up for City College night classes at the Castro/Valencia campus, located at Everett Middle School, 450 Church St.

Many people don't know it, but this campus offers not only gay, lesbian, and bisexual studies (such as "Gay and Lesbian Culture and Society" and "Lesbian Relationships"), but also classes for credit in English, film, anthropology, history, health science, Asian and women's studies, and foreign languages (French, Spanish, Russian, Italian, and Japanese).

Free noncredit course offerings include tai chi, sign language, creative writing, and money management.

Classes are taught Monday through Thursday, usually once a week from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. A semester runs 17 weeks.

For more information or a complete schedule, call 239-3127.

Seniors Write Memoirs

Author Diane Mann will teach a free writing class for seniors on Thursday mornings from 10 a.m. to noon, starting Jan. 31 at the Diamond Senior Center, 117 Diamond St.

Mann notes that the course, "Telling Your Own Story," is a wonderful way for participants to pass on their life experiences to future generations.

The class is free, and no writing experience is necessary.

For more information call 863-3507.

Condom Contest

In celebration of National Condom Week, Feb. 14 to 21, Good Vibrations—a sex toy, book, and video store located at 1210 Valencia St. (near 23rd)—will be hosting a guess-the-number-of-condoms-in-the-fish-bowl contest.

The grand prize winner will receive a \$100 gift certificate to Good Vibrations, as well as a sample pack of Good Vibrations' best-selling condoms. Entries will be accepted Feb. 14 to 21, and the winner will be announced Feb. 22.

In honor of the occasion, Good Vibrations would like to remind the public that condoms are "always a welcome and versatile gift," and can also be used with sex toys or as balloons.

The boutique sells many safe sex supplies in addition to condoms, and the staff is committed to providing accurate sex information to all customers. If you have any questions, call 974-8980.

Grand Jury Duty

The San Francisco Superior Court is now accepting volunteer applications for Civil Grand Jury duty.

The function of the Grand Jury is to investigate the operations of the officers,

departments, and agencies of the government of the City and County of San Francisco. To accomplish this task, the jury is divided into committees, which then visit government facilities, meet with officials, and develop recommendations for improving city and county operations.

Jurors serve for one year, from July 1997 through June 1998, and contribute approximately 500 hours of time. They receive a per diem fee of \$11 for each meeting of the entire grand jury (usually held on Monday evenings at 633 Folsom St.) and for each committee meeting, up to four meetings a month.

Applications must be received not later than 5 p.m. on Monday, April 14, 1997. For further information, call the Grand Jury Office at 554-5057.

Self-Help Job Service

Did you know there's an all-volunteer, self-run, free employment service for displaced professional workers?

For more than 10 years, Experience Unlimited, at 745 Franklin St., has been helping business, managerial, and technical professionals find fresh opportunities in the job market. The organization receives no state or local funding, charges no fee to employer or employee, and is solely operated by its membership.

Members contribute four volunteer hours a week and attend four meetings a month. In exchange, they have access to job skills workshops, seminars, guest speakers, networking and counseling support, job leads, and an array of office equipment and information resources.

To register for the next orientation, call 771-1776.

Navigating the School Maze

Pop quiz: Which San Francisco public schools require uniforms? Which teach Cantonese? Which emphasize technology and science? How hard is it to get into the school of your choice?

You can find the answers to these questions in Susan Jacobson's 92-page book, *Getting the Public School You Want* (Publishing 20/20, 1996). Jacobson, who served as director of the San Francisco Education Fund from 1993 to 1995, helps parents navigate San Francisco's treacherous school selection, application, and appeal process.

The book gives statistics on the number of applicants who get accepted into each school (to help you assess your chances) and offers tips and strategies for finding the school that best matches your child. It also gives a thorough explanation of the Optional Enrollment Request form, on which parents can list up to four schools other than their assigned school.

Getting the Public School You Want is available at bookstores on 24th Street, or by calling Publishing 20/20 at 487-8190.

This month's Short Takes were written by Jane Underwood, Anne Gates, and Loren J. Bialik.





Looking Beyond the Leaves. A large palm tree dominates a section of 26th Street and shelters a fine stained-glass window scene.
Photo by Beverly Thorp

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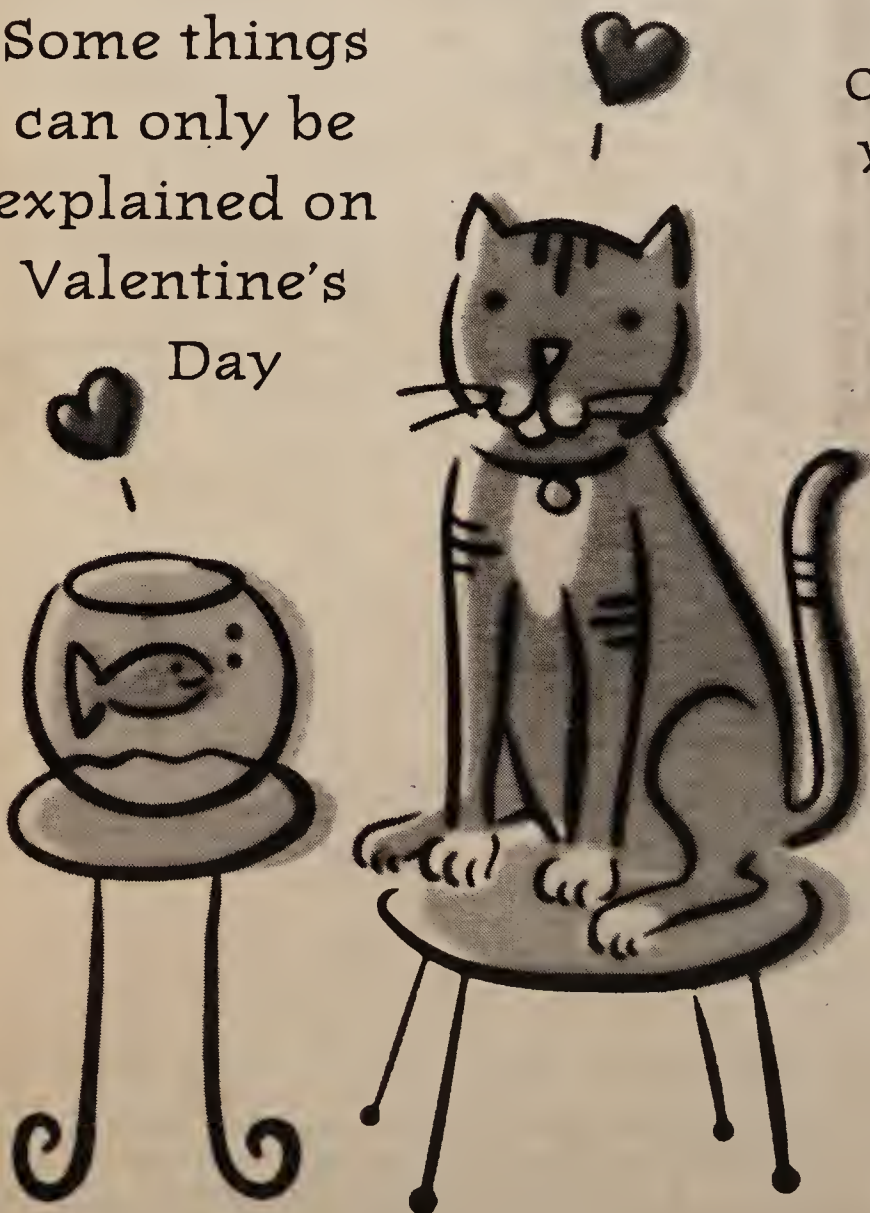
SAN FRANCISCO—A free report entitled "How to Stop Wasting Money On Rent And Own A Home Instead" has just been released showing renters how easy it is to buy a home in the San Francisco area.

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Bomb Squad Checks 'False Alarms' Too

By Steve Steinberg

Not expecting a package left on your doorstep? Can't identify it readily? Does it have a strange odor, or grease marks, or wires or batteries hanging out of it? Don't open it! Call the police instead.

That's the advice of the San Francisco Police Department's Explosive Ordinance Detail—the bomb squad, to you and me.

In late December that advice was put into practice when the bomb squad investigated a suspicious-looking box left on the doorstep of a house in the 400 block of Alvarado Street, between Sanchez and Noe.

"The resident wasn't expecting it and considered it suspicious, so they called the police," said bomb squad officer Michael Travis.

A regular police patrol didn't want to take any chances, so they called the bomb squad, which came out, evacuated the house, and blocked off the street.

Within an hour, however, Travis and another officer determined that the box was not an explosive device but rather a carton of advertising leaflets. Whoever planned to distribute the flyers had apparently left them on the doorstep and forgotten to come back and get them.

"The residents did the right thing," Travis said. "They took all the right precautions."

If you see a suspicious-looking parcel in the neighborhood, be sure to call the police at 553-0123. □

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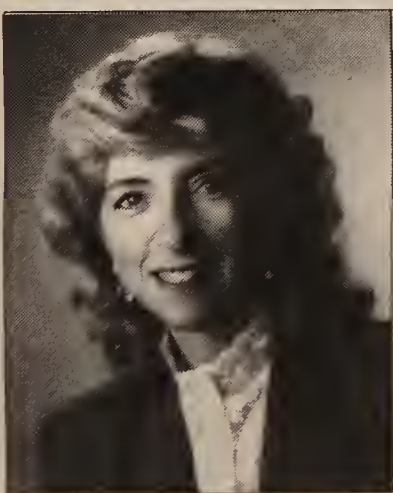
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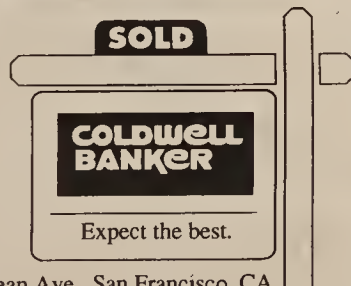
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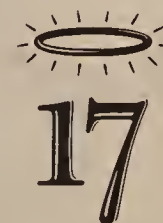
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EVERYTHING ITS OWN REASON

Three Women Shaken by Mugging Attempt

By Michele Lynn

A neighborhood walk on a sunny Sunday afternoon turned ugly for three Noe Valley residents after they were accosted by two youths, one of whom was brandishing a gun.

"There were three of us out for a stroll," said Susan, recalling the frightening Jan. 5 incident involving her, her partner Nancy, and friend Linda. (The women preferred to give only their first names.)

"At around 2:30 in the afternoon, we were on 26th Street between Castro and Noe when we suddenly saw two guys in front of us. They were moving in a way that made me suspicious," Susan said. "One of them showed me the barrel of a gun sticking out from the pocket of his hooded sweatshirt. He said, 'This is serious.'" His accomplice was wearing the hood of his sweatshirt over his head also.

Susan and Linda told the two young men that they didn't have their wallets with them. "Nancy said, 'Can't we just give you the money?'" Susan recounted. "He said, 'No, get in there,' gesturing with the gun to an alley we were standing next to."

Instead, Susan ran out into 26th Street, screaming, "Help! Call 911! Robbery!" Nancy and Linda ran after her.

At this point, the perpetrators split up, with one running up 26th Street and the other up Noe.

"We ran down the hill to Starbucks and told them what happened," Susan said.

"We used the phone in their back room to call the police."

Officers responded within minutes, having first gone to 26th Street to search for the muggers. The police told the women that 911 had received about 10 calls from residents alerted by Susan's screams. "We were really pleased with the response of the police," said Susan.

Unfortunately, the police were unable to capture the suspects, and no arrests have been made in the case.

Ironically, right before the incident, the women had been discussing how safe Noe Valley was. Said Nancy, "We were talking about how Noe Valley is safer than North Beach or the Embarcadero because those areas have tourists [whom robbers could prey upon]."

"This burst my bubble," she said regretfully. "I resent having to be as alert and suspicious as I now feel I have to be. We still feel Noe Valley is among the best neighborhoods, but you can't forget that you have to keep your eyes open."

Keeping your eyes open is definitely a good idea, said Mission Police Officer Lois Perillo, who covers a Noe Valley beat extending from Valencia to Grand View. She also commended the three women — and the neighbors on 26th Street — for their quick reactions in the robbery attempt.

Asked what other steps residents could take to protect themselves on the street, Perillo said, "Be aware of your surroundings. Walk in well-lit areas. It makes more sense to walk in a busier area, such as 24th Street, than in a quieter area at 3 a.m."

Officer Perillo also suggested carrying a "throwaway" wallet, an old billfold containing outdated i.d. and a couple of dollars. "When confronted by a robber, you can throw the wallet on the street and run in the opposite direction."

Perillo stressed, however, that each situation was unique. People should do

what's right for them, she said. When confronted by an assailant, "it's important to keep your composure, gather as much visual information as you can, and distance yourself from the threat, if possible."

"Noise is a friend," she said. "But there is no one answer. For anyone who is confronted with a weapon, my strong suggestion is to comply and keep your wits."

As for the current incidence of crime in Noe Valley, Perillo assured residents that rates had remained fairly stable. "Noe Valley generally averages three to four robberies per month."

In this month's Police Beat column (see pages 10-12), Perillo reported three robberies in October, six in November, but none in December, "which is very unusual," she said. However, the toll for January was three by the 19th.

Meanwhile, the three women who were part of those stats have asked their neighbors and the police to redouble their efforts to thwart crime.

"I've lived in lots of places in the world, and I really love it here [in Noe Valley]. I don't want to see it become an unsafe place," said Linda.

"We should do something on a community level, perhaps have community patrols and more police. And there should be self-defense classes. If we're vigilant and take some action, this problem will go away."

Personal safety classes are available through San Francisco SAFE (Safety Awareness For Everyone) at 553-1984. SAFE is a nonprofit organization providing free crime prevention services to individuals, groups, and businesses. □



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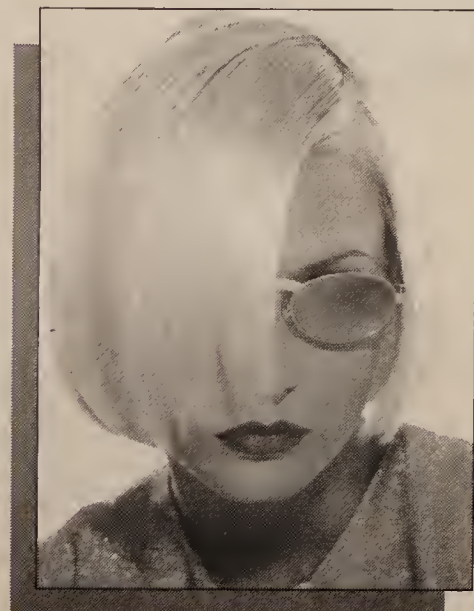
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Sun Shines on Stained-Glass Shop for 20 Years

By Elliot Poger

In 1972, Haight-Ashbury resident Dan Gamaldi signed up for a Recreation and Park Department stained-glass class on a whim. Twenty-five years later, dozens of homes and businesses in the neighborhood are decorated with stained-glass windows from Gamaldi's store, Cradle of the Sun. The shop, now sparkling at 3848 24th St., opened 20 years ago this month.

After Gamaldi's first stained-glass class in the '70s, he was so enchanted with his new craft that he decided to make it his vocation. His father put him in contact with a family friend in Pennsylvania who was a stained-glass master, Latvian World War II refugee Leonids Linauts.

In 1974 Dan, his wife Elaine, and their 1-year-old daughter moved to Pennsylvania, where he apprenticed with Linauts for one year making church windows. Here he learned the finer points of stained-glass art, which is, essentially, arranging pieces of cut glass into a pattern, then inserting strips of lead between the sections of glass, soldering the strips together, and, finally, applying a putty seal between the lead and the glass.

Following his apprenticeship, Gamaldi returned to California and earned an art degree at San Jose State University. He and his family then moved back to San Francisco, where he resumed work at his old job as a "soil stabilization engineer"—shoring up sunken roads and buildings.

Then in February 1977, using an \$800 disability payment he got after a job injury, Gamaldi opened his first studio at the corner of 25th and Sanchez streets. There he crafted stained-glass windows by commission and taught others the techniques

he had learned from Linauts. Two years later, he moved the shop to Church Street near 24th, to the storefront now occupied by Lovejoy's Antiques and Tea Room.

Gamaldi moved the store again in 1982, to its present location at the corner of 24th and Vicksburg. The more spacious quarters enabled him to "discover the wonderful world of retail," he beams.

"I'll never forget our first Christmas," Gamaldi recalls. "Christmas had always been when we ran out of money. Then it became just the opposite." He was delighted with how customers snapped up the shop's ornaments. "People were swarming all over them. I couldn't believe it."

Today Cradle of the Sun is crammed with colorful lamps, vases, wine glasses, and window hangings. While some of the merchandise is crafted by Gamaldi, the majority comes from studios and craft shows up and down the West Coast.

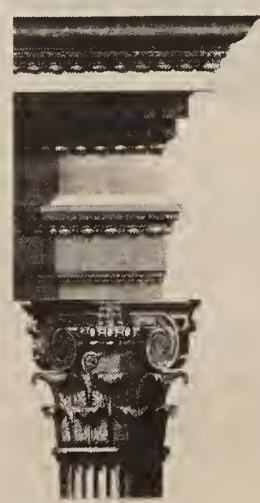
"People say they like the store and that it has wonderful stuff," says Gamaldi. "It's a great place to find gifts for that person who is hard to please or has everything. This is where I would shop for my wife if it wasn't already her shop too!"

He credits much of the store's success to Elaine Gamaldi, who now manages the retail end of things, including a second store the couple opened five years ago at 1546 Polk St. Meanwhile, Dan continues to make pieces on commission—which can take anywhere from 3 to 30 hours to complete—and to teach classes in the art of stained-glass.

Even though Gamaldi teaches four 2½-hour classes a week, the classes have become so popular, his waiting list is several months long. Most students complete a small window—typically 15-by-15 inches, with 20 pieces of glass—by the end of their first six-week session.

Then they're ready to create stained-glass pieces on their own. "All you need is a work space, preferably without a rug on the floor—you don't want to get glass in the rug—and a well-ventilated room

Continued on Page 23



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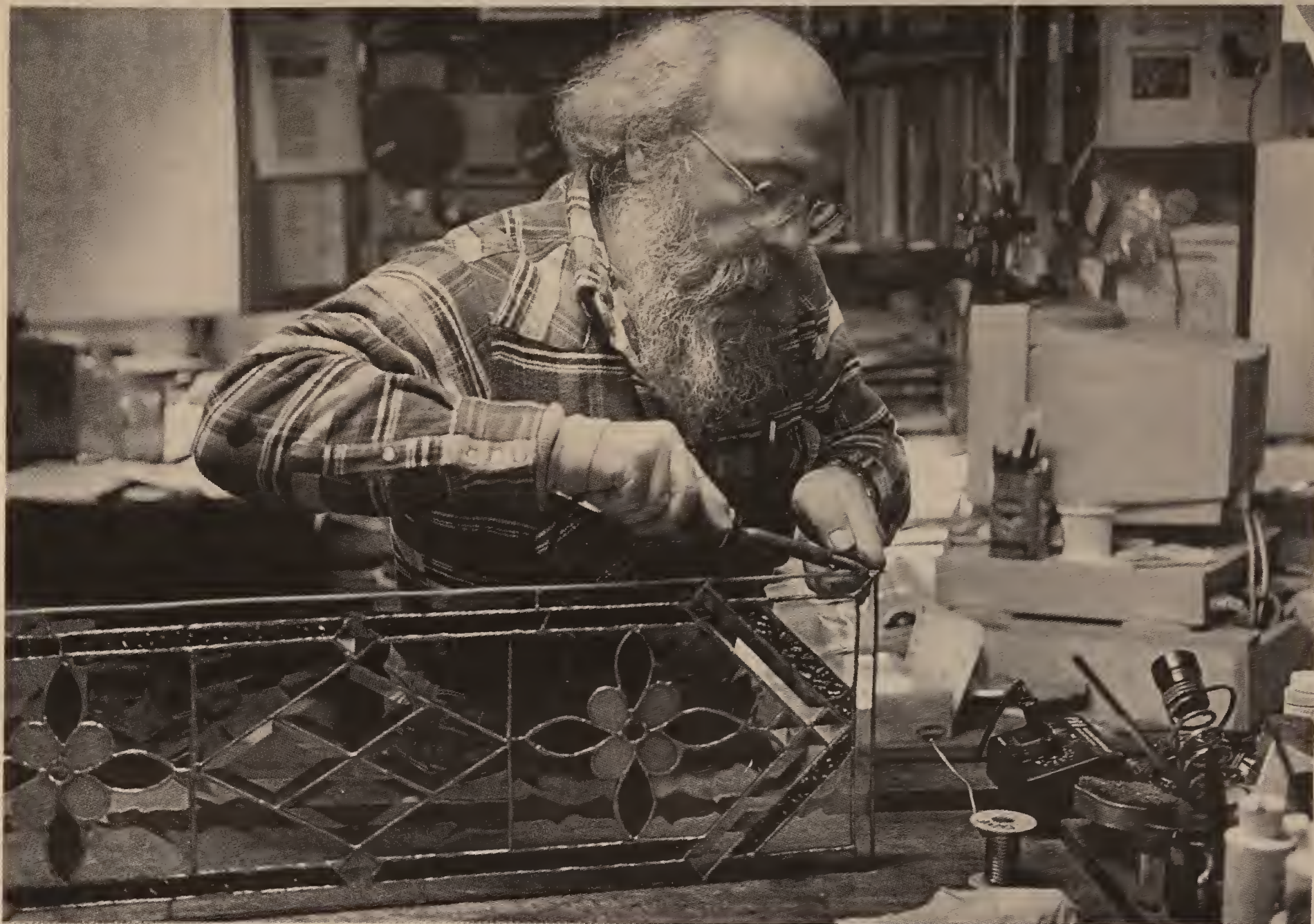
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Master stained-glass craftsman Dan Gamaldi is planning a month-long celebration at Cradle of the Sun, his 20-year-old gem on 24th Street. Photo by Charles Kennard

Cradle of the Sun

Continued from Page 22

that soldering fumes can be blown out of," says Gamaldi.

But wherever they work, artists and hobbyists can find all the raw materials they need in the shop. The store offers more than 400 glass samples.

"I have a reputation for having unusual, old, and different types of glass that people can't get other places," he notes.

Gamaldi will celebrate Cradle of the Sun's 20th anniversary with a wine and cheese party at the shop on Feb. 16 from 1 to 4 p.m. And all month long he'll be handing out gift certificates and tee shirts to customers, and colored-glass nuggets, his "Magic Dream Jewels," to kids. "They take them home and make a wish on them," he explains. "They love it...and I get a kick out of doing it!"

"I love doing what I do," Gamaldi reflects, "but being able to spend more time with my family would be nice. Working

for yourself...inevitably you end up working 14 hours a day."

Actually, he would love to coax his two daughters into the family business. "Every father's dream, I suppose, is to pass on the business to his offspring, but my daughters express absolutely no interest in stained glass," he laughs.

In any event, Gamaldi will continue to practice and teach in Noe Valley for many years to come. "More than likely, I'll be doing stained glass until the day I die." □

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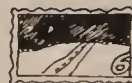
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Artist Ken Hughes did this drawing of 4054 20th St. as it appeared originally, a charming Italianate sitting demurely at the back of the lot.

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From Victorian to Virtual, Complete With View

By Tim Kelley

The 4000 block of 20th Street is a lofty cul-de-sac, with steps leading up from both Sanchez and Noe streets. But there is only one way to get there by car, a steep curving ramp up from Noe.

Paul Matz makes the drive every day, however, commuting from his new home at 4054 20th St. to his job as a staff engineer for Aspect Telecommunications in San Jose. Actually, he carools when he can, so most of the time there's someone else driving. That's why there are Karen Carpenter tunes on the radio—it's the price you pay for carpooling. (Matz has already drawn the line at one potential pool-mate who was a Howard Stern fan.)

Matz and his wife, Jeremy Stone, a member of the visiting faculty at the San Francisco Art Institute, bought the house last March. Although they loved the location, the house puzzled them a bit. From the outside, it looked like a 1940s

stucco bungalow from the Sunset District, perhaps washed up here by some forgotten tidal wave. Inside, the house had been nicely modernized, with a spacious kitchen and a rear wall of glass looking north toward downtown and views you'll never see from the Sunset.

But city records said it had been built in 1907, just after the 1906 Earthquake and Fire, when there was temporarily no downtown to look at.

This date didn't sound right to Matz and Stone, though. For several months they debated the origins of the house. Was it really as old as the city said it was? An earthquake shack, maybe? An old coach house? Finally, marital peace was preserved when Stone gave her husband a history of the house for Christmas.

"It was a gift I could never have guessed," says Matz. It was also a story that no one was likely to have guessed from looking at the house. For it turned out that the original structure was built well before 1907. It was also one of the first two buildings on the block.

Its owner was Matthew Murphy, a house painter. Murphy bought a double lot on the then-remote and barren hilltop on Jan. 11, 1878, for \$800.

On the same day, he sold the western half of the lot to Denis Healey, a carpenter and seaman, for \$500.

In the next few months, Murphy's house and one next door for the Healeys were built, probably by the owners them-

Continued on Page 25



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Behind this mild-mannered facade on 20th Street lies a prim pioneer Victorian, built in 1878. Photo by Charles Kennard

HOUSE

Continued from Page 24

selves. Presumably, they waited until the rains stopped before dragging building materials up the steep slope.

Old maps show the two houses snug-gled side by side at the back of their lots, alone on the block. Murphy's is shown as a single-story, flat-fronted structure, or what is now called a "flat-front Italianate."

The U.S. Census of 1880 found the Murphys perched up there, overlooking a city that was beginning to grow out to greet them. Matthew Murphy had been unemployed for six months in the previous year, but was still managing to support his wife, Kate, and their six children, who ranged in age from 2 to 12.

Willy Murphy, the 2-year-old, was 17 when the family finally moved down the hill to Church Street in 1895. They rented out the old homestead to a house painter associate of Murphy's. Not until the 1906 earthquake had decisively shuffled the real estate deck did they sell the house on 20th Street.

As it turned out, the earthquake had far less effect on this house than did that other shaker of cities, the automobile. Until the transportation revolution of the 'teens and '20s, this hilltop site was one that only economic necessity or a strong sense of the picturesque could favor.

At the turn of the century, more than two decades after Matthew Murphy built his home, there were still only three houses on the block.

But soon after the first Model A made it up the hill, the street began to fill up. Despite the march of progress, Murphy's house maintained a low profile. Sitting at the back of the lot, somewhat below the grade of the new street, it was in the po-

sition of a Perry Como fan watching the dawn of rock 'n' roll.

For several years, into the 1920s, it was the home of two elderly wagon makers. The walls today must still remember their grumbling about those noisy, newfangled contraptions called automobiles.

Finally, in 1930, the house decided to join the block party. Like an invalid aunt who hasn't been out of her room in years, it laboriously stood up and began to make its way to the front of the lot. Actually, the house changed hands five times in four years, during which time it moved to the front of the lot, lifted itself to accommodate a garage, sprouted a bay window, reoriented its front entrance, had a stucco facelift, and finally reverted to the same owners who had sold it four years earlier.

Now it sits, disguised as a Sunset special, with the heart of a Victorian veteran. Its adaptations, especially the garage and street-front relocation, are what have allowed the house to survive. Without them, it probably would have been sacrificed, as was its old comrade, the Healey house.

The garage now provides the launch ramp from which Paul Matz finds his way to San Jose, a journey that can take anywhere from 50 minutes to an hour and a half. He hopes to soon be able to reduce his drive time by telecommuting from home. When that happens, the house will have entered yet another epoch, spanning the Victorian to the virtual.

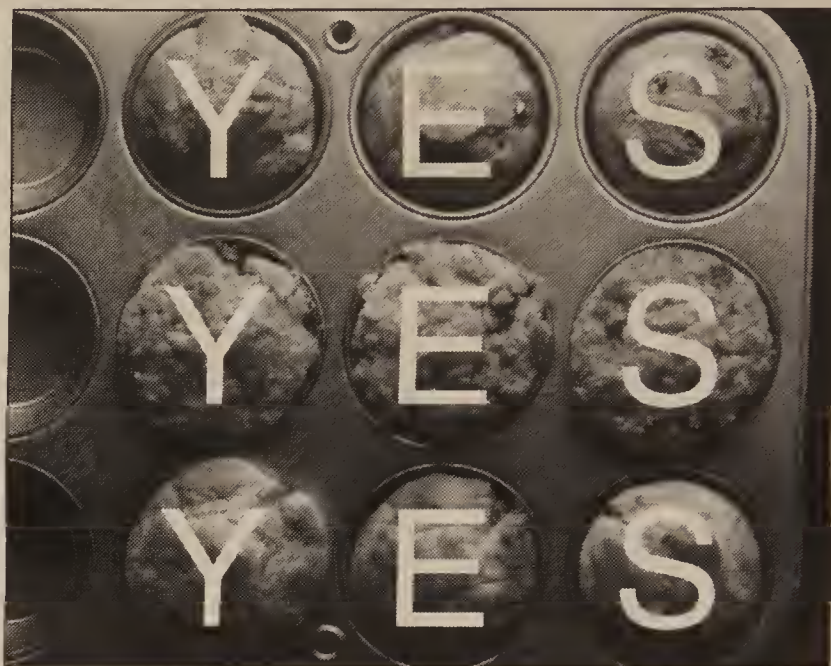
And somewhere on Interstate 280, a lone driver will be stuck listening to *Close to You*. Perhaps Paul Matz, seated at his home computer with the whole of San Francisco out his window, will find himself humming a few bars of another Carpenter hit, *Top of the World*. □

Tim Kelley writes about Noe Valley houses and the people who've lived in them. He invites your calls at 337-5824.

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VALLEY VIEWS

Stalking the Proud Pedestrian

By Debra Wolf and Ian Mackler

Even though we are relative newcomers to Noe Valley, like true natives we have learned to take our daily stroll along 24th Street, browsing for bagels and searching for that perfect blend of coffee. But each day, as we leave our home on Vicksburg and make our way down to 24th, we find ourselves wincing at the near-disastrous encounters we see between Noe Valley drivers and pedestrians.

On a bright midweek morning recently, we were taking in the scene at one of Noe Valley's famed people-watching spots, Martha's Coffee. At 8 a.m., the area was already bustling with commerce—the usual kaleidoscope of San Franciscans moving in every direction, on foot as well as in cars.

We noticed a wry smile crease the face of an adjoining benchwarmer from New York City, as we watched an older gentleman dangerously meandering across 24th Street. "Either there are some lucky people walking around these streets, or some superb drivers," the Manhattanite remarked.

As if to underline our bench neighbor's casual comment, another man

stepped from the curb in front of Holy Bagel and began to dart and zigzag across the two lanes of traffic. He crossed head down, oblivious to a rapidly moving van approaching from Vicksburg Street. Fortunately, the gods smiled on the pedestrian, for the alert van operator jerked to a sudden stop.

This incident inspired us to conduct a field study of the cat-and-mouse behavior of walkers and drivers in our neighborhood. Over the next few weeks we catalogued the many precarious ways in

which otherwise intelligent locals navigate the streets of Noe Valley.

Our research showed that Noe Valley pedestrians fall into a number of distinct camps. You might recognize them:

The Challenger. This type of street-crosser is legion in Noe Valley and the bane of motorists everywhere. As if demanding that attention be paid to pedestrian right-of-way laws in California (which, by the way, *do* have exceptions and limits), the Challenger, without warning, leaps from the curb into oncoming traffic, but always maintains a position inside the crosswalk. Often a car is already rolling through the intersection, but that doesn't deter the Challenger. We observed more than one set of automobile brakes screeching to a halt, and we wondered what would have happened if a driver had sneezed or the brakes had failed.

The Steady Streamer. This is the most common type of pedestrian populating Noe Valley's crosswalks. A few days ago, we watched a line of Steady Streamers crossing 24th at Noe, heading towards Starbucks. First a few pedestrians moved into the intersection. Cars dutifully halted. Other folks on the sidewalk then rushed into the crosswalk.

Continued on Page 27

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VALLEY VIEWS

Continued from Page 26

Still others slipped in behind them, allowing no chance for the cars to take a turn. This behavior can prove especially hazardous late in the day, when drivers, blinded by the setting sun and losing patience, are forced to inch into the crosswalk, pedestrians or not, in order to force a break in the jamming.

The Weaver. Often spotted in front of Bell Market, the Weaver can be seen threading between double-parked Mack delivery trucks, taking for granted that these 18-wheel behemoths won't shift into gear suddenly, flattening him like a pancake.

The Ostrich. Head down, oblivious to oncoming traffic, with an attitude of "If I don't see them, they won't hit me," the Ostrich can be observed ambling across Noe Valley streets, sometimes in deep conversation with another, and at other times just mumbling to himself.

The Flying Ostrich. This variation on the Ostrich exhibits the same general demeanor, but adds a certain flair. His eyes are focused on the street, seemingly unaware of the surrounding action, but the arms are extended in both directions, as if to signal that all traffic must stop. We recently sighted such a bird heading across 24th Street, flapping away.

The Philosopher. Halfway into the crosswalk, the Philosopher, always a good neighbor, sees a friend and stops to pass the time of day, showing little



Although pedestrians do have the right of way in city crosswalks, they often take their life into their hands, say Noe Valley observers Debra Wolf and Ian Mackler. Photo by Beverly Tharp

concern for the two-ton, gas-burning, exhaust-spewing mechanical monsters backed up one after the other all the way down 24th Street.

The Madonna-With-Child. There is a growing band of jaywalkers who use their children as shields. We observed one parent—with a young school-age child held tightly by one hand, and a rambunctious dog straining at the leash in the other—crossing near Douglass and Elizabeth, well outside the safety of the intersection. Cars were approaching from all directions, but the obstinate

mother plowed on.

Often the Madonna-With-Child will thrust her stroller right into the roadway—even if the stopped car has started moving—knowing that the driver will slam on the brakes to avoid the carriage (or carnage).

The Motorist Turned Pedestrian. We witnessed numerous examples of this species. He's the driver who spots a rare metered parking place on 24th Street and does a daring midblock U-turn to claim the space. Then, after taking five minutes to squeeze his car into

the tight spot, he flings the driver-side door open into oncoming traffic, narrowly escaping death via an irate parking-place competitor.

Yes, a miracle of transformation has occurred: He's now a full-fledged Noe Valley Pedestrian. □

Debra Wolf is an attorney practicing on 24th Street. Ian Mackler is an attorney, writer, and actor.

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FEBRUARY

FEB. 1: The AFRICAN AMERICAN Center of the S.F. Public Library features a lecture by John Templeton, author of *Our Roots Run Deep*, at 10 am, and a slideshow of African American performers in San Francisco by Patty Yancey at 2 pm. Main Library, 100 Larkin St. 557-4525.

FEB. 1: The Friends of the San Francisco Public Library host a fundraising BARGAIN BOOK SALE (\$1 or less) at Fort Mason Building A. 10 am-6 pm. 557-4257.



FEB. 1: Community Music Center's Inner City Young Musicians perform a midyear CONCERT. 11 am. 544 Capp St. 647-6015.

FEB. 1: The S.F. MYSTERY Bookstore presents local author Ron Miller signing his new book, *Mystery! Stalking Public Television's Greatest Sleuths*. 2-3 pm. 4175 24th St. 282-7444.

FEB. 1: DAN HICKS and his Acoustic Warriors perform jazz, western swing/pop, and "folk noir" at the Noe Valley Music Series. 8:15 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 454-5238.

FEB. 1, 6, 7 & 8: Noe Valley's HUGH PALMERSTON performs in Robert Trumbull's play *Questions of Mercy*. 8 pm. Marin Academy Theater, 5th and Cottage St., San Rafael. 454-6056.

FEB. 1, 7 & 8: Dancers' Group Studio Theater performs "Moon at Dawn," original CHOREOGRAPHY by Takami. 8 pm. 3221 22nd St. 824-5044.

FEB. 1-28: "Glacierama," a dioramic exhibit of MINI-ART by 20 artists, is on display at the Noe Valley Library. 451 Jersey St. 695-5095.

FEB. 2: The Adventist HEALTHVAN offers cholesterol and blood pressure screening at Mission and 24th St., 10 am-4 pm. 775-2570.

FEB. 3: Project Inform's TOWN MEETING features a report from the 4th Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections. 6:30-9 pm. UCSF Laurel Heights Conference Center, 3333 California St. 558-8669.

FEB. 3: Dr. Betty Carmack leads a free PET LOSS support group for grieving pet owners. 7:30-9 pm. SPCA, 2500 16th St. 554-3050.

FEB. 4: JULIA ALVAREZ reads from her latest novel, *Yo*. 7:30 pm. Modern Times Bookstore, 888 Valencia St. 282-9246.

FEB. 4, 11 & 18: Preschool STORY TIME for kids 3 to 5 happens on Tuesdays at the Noe Valley Library. 10 am. 451 Jersey St. 695-5095.

FEB. 4, 11, 18 & 25: Wellness expert Diane See offers a HEALTHY LIVING class Tuesdays. Lunch served at noon, class begins at 1 pm. Diamond Senior Center, 117 Diamond St. 863-3507.

FEB. 5: The 30th Street Senior Center hosts a VALENTINE bazaar, featuring crafts, original art, and baked goods. 10 am-2 pm. 225 30th St. 550-2210.

FEB. 5: Parents Place sponsors a free PRESCHOOL PREVIEW to help parents choose from private, public, and cooperative facilities. 6-9 pm. Hall of Flowers, Golden Gate Park, 9th Ave. at Lincoln Way. 563-1041.

FEB. 5, 12, 19 & 26: The Noe Valley Library holds its Wednesday LAPSITS, for infants and toddlers and their parents. 7 pm. 451 Jersey St. 695-5095.

FEB. 5, 12, 19 & 26: The Growing Stage at The Marsh has a STORY TIME and crafts for ages 3 and up. 3:30 pm. 1062 Valencia St. 826-5750 ext. 2.

FEB. 5, 12, 19 & 26: Learn some new Q-words at the Bernal Heights Library's SCRABBLE NIGHTS. 7:30 pm. 500 Cortland St. 695-5160.

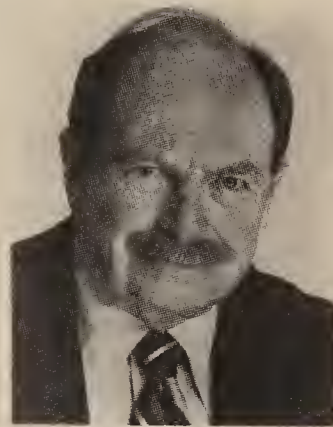
FEB. 6, 13 & 20: Media Alliance offers a CRASH COURSE on interactive, nonlinear writing. 6:30 pm. 814 Mission St., Suite 205. 546-6491.

FEB. 6, 13, 20 & 27: Diane Mann leads a free WRITING CLASS for seniors Thursdays from 10 am until noon. Diamond Senior Center, 117 Diamond St. 863-3507.

FEB. 7: St. Francis Lutheran Church's First Friday series features an ORGAN RECITAL by Rod Gehrke. 5:45 pm. Church St. between Market and Duboce. 621-2635.



FEB. 7: 17 authors will give readings at a National Writers Union POETS & WRITERS sampler. 7:30 pm. New College of California, 766 Valencia St. (510) 839-1248.



Noe Valley actor Hugh Palmerston is featured in *Questions of Mercy*, a new play treating assisted suicide with humanity and humor. Final performances are Feb. 1, 6, 7 & 8 at the Marin Academy Theater.

FEB. 7-MARCH 1: Karen Hirst and Margery Kreitman perform "Digitally Yours: COMIC QUEERIES Into the Future." Fri. and Sat., 8:30 pm. Theatre Rhinoceros, 2926 16th St. 861-5079.

FEB. 8: Learn the basic procedures of ADULT CPR. 9:30 am-1:30 pm, at St. Luke's Hospital. To register, 437-4337.

FEB. 8: The Randall Museum offers an ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION Conference to describe existing groups and encourage new ones. 9 am-2 pm. 199 Museum Way. Call 668-7024 or 554-9604 to register by Feb. 3.

FEB. 8: Sammy's Pet World hosts an owner-pet LOOK-ALIKE CONTEST open to all living species. 10 am, cats; 10:30 am, birds, reptiles, and miscellaneous small animals; 11 am, dogs. 1685 Bryant St. 865-1840.

FEB. 8: The S.F. Botanical Gardens sponsors a PLANT SALE in the Strybing Nursery (near the Arthur Menzies Garden of California Native Plants). 10 am-1 pm. 661-3090.

FEB. 8: Julie Dodd Tetzlaff and Yvonne Littleton show how to make pop-up VALENTINES. 1 pm. The Randall Museum 199 Museum Way. 554-9600.

FEB. 8: The San Francisco FUCHSIA SOCIETY hosts a pruning demonstration at the Sloat Garden Nursery. 1-3 pm. 3427 Wawona St. 731-5817.

FEB. 8: "An Evening of BLACK FILM" by Chandra Redack benefits the Women Count Network. 7:30 pm. New College, 777 Valencia St. 626-4114.

FEB. 8: The Noe Valley Music Series celebrates Black History Month with a concert of AFRICAN MUSIC by Malagasy roots music group Tarika Sammy. 8:15 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 454-5238.

FEB. 9: Bethany Methodist Church hosts a MARDI GRAS celebration and morning worship featuring the Joyful Noise Jazz Band and a red beans and rice luncheon. 11 am. 1268 Sanchez St. 647-8393.

FEB. 9: JANET EVANOVICH signs her third Stephanie Plum novel, *Three to Get Deadly*. 1-2 pm. S.F. Mystery Bookstore, 4175 24th St. 282-7444.

FEB. 9: The San Francisco ROSE SOCIETY'S meeting features a discussion, "Building a Low-Maintenance Rose Garden." 1 pm. Hall of Flowers Fireside Room, Golden Gate Park, 9th Ave. at Lincoln Way. 436-0497.



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NOE VALLEY DEMOCRATIC CLUB

This Month...

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PHOTO BY FISCHELLA

Noe Valley Ministry

1021 Sanchez Street
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7:30 p.m., Wednesday, February 12th

**Come with comments and questions
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For more information, contact Club President
Dave Monks at 821-4087.

Free and open to the public.



NOE VALLEY DEMOCRATIC CLUB
Diane Sidd-Champion, Treasurer.

CALENDAR

FEB. 9: "Teen City," a festival of original PLAYS created and performed by Bay Area teens, begins at 2 pm. Cowell Theater, Fort Mason Center. 285-1717.

FEB. 9: PFLAG hosts a screening of VIDEO *All God's Children*, a documentary about the Black Church's support of African American lesbians and gay men. 3-4 pm. St. Francis Lutheran Church, 152 Church St. 921-8850.

FEB. 9: Noe Valley Ministry's CANTATE service of chanting, meditation, and prayer begins at 7 pm. 1021 Sanchez St. 282-2317.

FEB. 10: The Diamond Senior Center's luncheon/birthday party at noon will be followed by a MARDI GRAS DANCE with music by the Rusty Band. 117 Diamond St. 863-3507.

FEB. 11: Poet and artist GLEN CHESNUT reads from his work at Keane's 3300 Club. 7 pm. 3300 Mission St. 826-6886.

FEB. 11: The Winds of Freedom Band (the seated version of the S.F. Lesbian and Gay Marching Band) performs a free CONCERT at Bethany Church. 8:15 pm. 1268 Sanchez St. 647-8393.

FEB. 13: Authors Aaron and Charlotte Elkins introduce their golf MYSTERY *Rotten Lies*, and his new Gideon Oliver book, *Twenty Blue Devils*. 1-2 pm. The San Francisco Mystery Bookstore, 4175 24th St. 282-7444.

FEB. 13: STARHAWK reads from her novel of 21st-century Northern California, *Walking to Mercury*. 7:30 pm. Modern Times Bookstore, 888 Valencia St. 282-9246.



Tarika Sammy, a popular musical ensemble hailing from Madagascar off the coast of Africa, will perform Feb. 8 at the Noe Valley Music Series.

FEB. 14: The S.F. Recreation and Park Dept.'s free Senior Citizens' 20th Annual VALENTINE'S DAY DANCE features the Maury Wolohan Band. 12:30-3:30 pm. Hall of Flowers, 9th Ave. and Lincoln Way. 666-7205.

FEB. 14: Expressive Arts therapist Kate Donohue lectures on "Paradox, Precision, and Passion: The Art of Helen Hardin." 7-9 pm. California Institute of Integral Studies, 9 Peter Yorke Way. 674-5500, ext. 241.

FEB. 14: "NOCHE DE SALSA," featuring Latino music, dance, and culture, benefits Shanti's Latino Program. 8 pm -midnight. Cesar's Latin Palace, 3140 Mission St. 864-2273.

FEB. 14-21: In celebration of NATIONAL CONDOM WEEK, Good Vibrations hosts a guess-the-number-of-condoms-in-the-fish-bowl contest; grand prize is a \$100 gift certificate. 1210 Valencia St. 974-8980.

FEB. 15: The Noe Valley Music Series celebrates its 16th anniversary with a CONCERT by Stephen Kent, Eda Maxym, and friends, playing world music with Middle East and Aborigine influences. 8:15 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 454-5238.

FEB. 16: Join the Surfrider Foundation in a CLEAN-UP of Ocean Beach. 10 am. Meet at Rivera St. 665-4155.

FEB. 16: Noe Valley CHAMBER MUSIC presents the Artaria Quartet and guest guitarist Richard Savino in "Echoes of Spain," the music of Boccherini, Giuliani, and Haydn. 2 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 282-2317.

FEB. 16: Gideon Meir performs a SOLO HARPSICHORD concert. 5 pm. Community Music Center, 544 Capp St. 647-6015.

FEB. 19: NARFE, the National Association of Retired Federal Employees, holds a meeting to discuss current legislation. 1 pm. Odd Fellows Hall, Third floor, 26 7th St. 826-3337.

FEB. 19: Thaisa Frank, author of *Finding Your Writer's Voice: A Guide to Creative Fiction*, conducts a short WORKSHOP on vision-driven fiction. 7:30 pm. Modern Times Bookstore, 888 Valencia St. 282-9246.

FEB. 20: Bart and Judy Lewis teach BALLROOM DANCING on Thursday evenings. Commodore Sloat School, Ocean Ave. & Junipero Serra Blvd. Call 661-2746 for information.

FEB. 21: The California Institute of Integral Studies offers a class by Deena Metzger, "WRITING for Your Life." 7-9 pm. 9 Peter Yorke Way. 674-5500, ext. 241.

FEB. 22: The Noe Valley Music Series hosts a CONCERT of traditional Balinese music and dance led by Gamelan Sekar Jaya. 8:15 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 454-5238.

FEB. 22 & 23: Most Holy Redeemer AIDS SUPPORT GROUP offers volunteer training to provide practical and emotional in-home support. For an application, call Jeff at 863-1581.

FEB. 23: The Growing Stage at the Marsh presents ANIMAL TALES and crafts from around the world, for ages 4 to 8. 11:30 am. 1062 Valencia St. 641-0235.

FEB. 23: Strybing Arboretum Society offers a class in BOTANICAL DRAWING for 9- to 12-year-olds. 1-3 pm. Golden Gate Park. 661-1316, ext. 307.

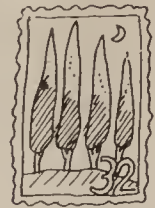
FEB. 23: MUSICA PACIFICA performs 17th-century English and French works, "Musick for Severall Friends." 2 pm. Noe Valley Chamber Music at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 282-2317.

FEB. 23: The Community Music Center students and staff CONCERT features an eclectic program of chamber music, jazz, and ethnic music. 4 pm. 544 Capp St. 647-6015.

FEB. 25: The Noe Valley Library screens FILMS for preschoolers at two times: 10 and 11 am. 451 Jersey St. 695-5095.

FEB. 25: Keane's 3300 Club hosts a POETRY reading by Joan Brady and Jon Greene. 7 pm. 3300 Mission St. 826-6886.

FEB. 27: The San Francisco Natural History Series at the Randall Museum offers a lecture by Fran Baron of the S.F. Hobby Beekeepers, "European Honeybees and Their Native Relatives." 7:30 pm. 199 Museum Way. 554-9600.



Please Feed the Calendar

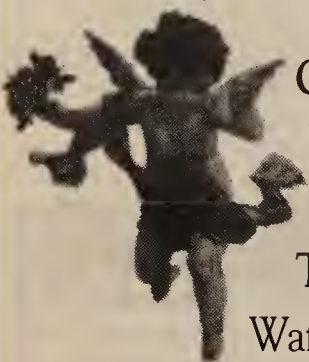
The *Voice* calendar is your opportunity to publicize an event. Whether it be an exercise class, garage sale, block party, art show, or book-signing, your neighbors would like to know about it.

The next issue of the *Voice* will be hot off the presses Feb. 26, and will include listings through April 1. Please send your March calendar items by the Feb. 15 deadline. Mail notices to the *Noe Valley Voice* Calendar, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Or send e-mail to jaxvoice@aol.com.

Calendar questions or last-minute changes should be directed to Karol at 285-6347. Note that items are published on a space-available basis, with Noe Valley events receiving priority. (And it's free.) □



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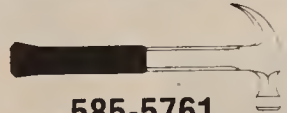
Run It Out. Boys warming up for their afternoon soccer practice sprint through the warm early October in Glen Park. Photo by Beverly Thorp

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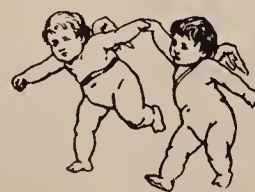
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AUNT HERMIONE'S KITCHEN

Any Port in The Storm

By Ruhama Veltfort

Aunt Hermione gazed glumly out of the living room window at the gray sky, the wet street, and the steadily increasing drizzle. She looked depressed.

"Why, Auntie!" I was surprised. "I thought you liked the rain! Weren't you thinking of moving to Seattle, before you decided to move in here with me?"

She came over and sat on the couch across from my chair.

"Well, dear, I do like rain, generally—but there has been an awful mess of it this year. That was the *soggiest* December I believe I have ever seen, and I can remember those floods in the Valley in the '50s, before Pat Brown had all those dams built.

"'Dam Brown,' we used to call him," she mused. "And by the way, I don't think I would care at all for Seattle, if it's anything like that coffee place on 24th Street. I haven't even had a cup of plain coffee since 1980, much less all those fancy things they put into it these days. And plain or fancy, it's not good for the brain."

"I thought you didn't believe in all that health food stuff, Auntie." I bit my tongue. I hadn't meant to be so argumentative—I guess the rainy weather was getting to me, too.

"I don't believe in the stuff you read in those magazines," she sniffed, "but I do most certainly believe in my own experience. Did you ever meet Potty Bellows?"

I didn't think I could forget a name like that. "Um, no, I don't believe so. Did he go to Stanford with you?"

Aunt Hermione nodded pensively. Outside, the rain had started coming down hard. I hoped the caulking I'd just put in around the windows would keep the water from dripping through the living room ceiling.

"He was one of the brightest fellows in our class," she said. "And always had a cup of coffee in front of him—he said it helped him think. And he was sharp as a tack, too—he went on to engineering school and invented one of those silly things that make the TV work.

"He married Millie Primsocket. She was in our class, too. But, my goodness, he started going senile when he was only in his 60s. That's when I quit drinking the stuff..." She trailed off.

Oh, dear, I thought. She was really getting blue. "Do you really think it was the coffee?" I asked timidly.

"Well, it must have been *something!*" Her blue eyes were bright. "He's hardly more than a vegetable now."

I shivered. Maybe I'd better cut down on coffee myself. A gust of wind rattled the windows. I wondered what I could

Aunt Hermione's Portobello Mushroom and Port Wine Sauce

Ingredients

2–3 Portobello mushrooms (about 1-1/2 cups, cut in 1/2-inch pieces)
1 shallot, finely minced
3 tablespoons butter
Dash of Worcestershire sauce
3/4 cup tawny port
1 teaspoon dried tarragon
Salt and pepper to taste
1 squeeze fresh lemon
1/4 cup chopped parsley

Wipe mushrooms with a damp paper towel, removing all dirt. Remove the tough part of the stems, and cut the caps and tender stems into half-inch pieces.

Heat the butter in a small skillet and cook the shallot until just transparent.

Add the mushrooms and cook, stirring, until soft—about 5 to 10 minutes. Add Worcestershire sauce, tarragon, and port, and simmer slowly until there is only a small amount of liquid left, about 10 more minutes.

Season with salt and pepper and a squeeze of fresh lemon. Sprinkle with chopped parsley and serve over steak, roast beef, or lamb. *Serves 2 to 4.*

do to change the subject to something more cheerful. Food, I thought. Talking about food always cheered her up—but not vegetables. I looked up at the ceiling, hoping not to see water spots. Then I looked down at the floor.

"Gee," I said, "I bet it's so damp we could grow mushrooms in this rug."

Aunt Hermione smiled.

"Potty did the most wonderful thing with mushrooms—he was a great cook, you know. He and Millie had a big roast beef dinner on Groundhog Day every year—he said it was a Bellows family tradition." She rattled off a long list of names of all the people who'd been there. There was nothing wrong with *her* memory, I thought. Of course, she didn't drink coffee....

"They served the most wonderful mushroom sauce!"

Her voice was getting brighter.

"They used the little brown ones—they were the best we could get back then, but I'll bet it would be wonderful with those big Portobellos."

She giggled. "Portobello, Potty Bellows—anyway, I'd love a steak. Would you mind terribly going out in this mess, dear?"

"You could get us a nice steak, and some of those Portobello mushrooms, and I'll see if I can make a sauce as good as the one Potty used to make."

I didn't mind at all. I was so happy to see her in a better mood.

Later that evening, we agreed there was nothing like a juicy steak to chase away the blues on a dreary day.

And even though I never tasted Potty Bellows' mushroom sauce, it couldn't have been as good as Aunt Hermione's. □



An Octopus' Garden in the Shade? A large sea creature rests atop a car on Vicksburg Street, hoping the driver will read its note on the windshield. Photo by Pamela Gerard

Pooches' Playtime

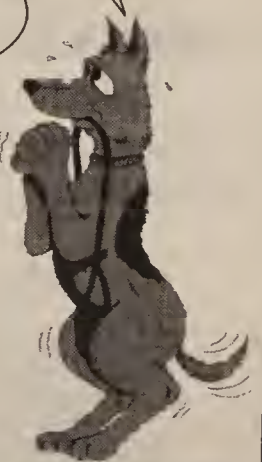
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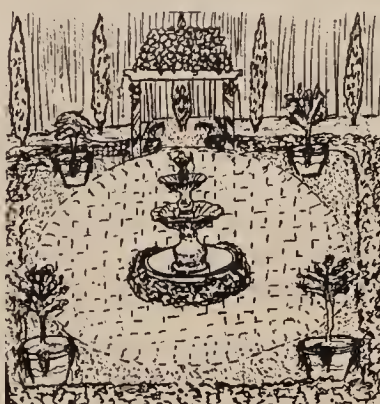


Future 49ers? "Swoosh," one of two football teams sponsored by the Upper Noe Recreation Center on Day Street, was undefeated all year and won the city championship in its division by swooshing Colorado Playground 27-7 on Nov. 16. Way to go, team. Pictured in front are David Mercado, Luis Garcia, Jose Amador, James Marquez, and Barry Beere; second row: Charlie Delatorie, Anthony Black, Joey Curtin, and James Valerio; third row: general manager Rick Chin, head coach Tony Zervas, and team president Kevin Black.



A Team That's Building. The mostly rookie football squad at Upper Noe Recreation Center, dubbed the "No-Names," lost to city champion Visitacion Valley Playground in a semifinal match, but ended the 1996 season with a 4-2 record—a remarkable showing, especially for a team with no name. Shown in front are Shane Ames, Alex Solis, Vereker Tam, and Joey Leoncavallo; back row: coach Kevin Black, Bradley Henderson, Buddy Fields, Jeremy Holman, and Richard Cibotti.

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Why Are These People Smiling? Because they each played a part in creating a scenic stairway that will link the "hill-dwellers" in the 500 block of 27th Street (near Castro) with the "lowlanders" at 27th and Noe. Resident Dennis Downing (right) won backing from Supervisor Barbara Kaufman (next to him), who found \$110,000 in the city budget to pay for the steps up the hill on 27th Street. Meanwhile, Doug Shaw (left), developer of a condominium complex at 525 27th St., chipped in \$7,500 toward landscaping the open space surrounding the steps. The new stairway, to be built this summer, will be made of concrete and will connect to existing stairs alongside an apartment building on Noe Street. Neighbor Kim Mayor and longtime resident Barbara Francisco (center), who sold her house to Shaw, are also pleased about developments on the hill. Said Francisco, who for years tended the shrubbery on the nearby median strip (which will also see some improvements), "I think this is a great finish to the 28 years I've spent watering, weeding, and raking. It's going to be beautiful." Photo by Charles Kennard; c. 1963 photo courtesy Barbara Francisco.



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Photo by Beverly Thorp

Looking for News in All the Rack Places

Finding a copy of *The Noe Valley Voice* near the end of the month can be nearly as tough as discovering where Waldo is. But aside from our regular free distribution points in stores, cafes, and other public places, we're trying to keep our news racks stocked until the next issue is almost ready to go to the printer.

We have three racks located in downtown Noe Valley: on Noe at 24th Street near Starbucks, on Castro at 24th Street near Out of Hand, and as pictured above, on 24th Street in front of Bell Market.

Other locations are on Church at Cesar Chavez in front of Crystal Market, and on Diamond at Chenery in front of Tyger's in Glen Park. We're also at 18th Street at Collingwood in front of Cala Foods, on Castro at 18th in front of Presto Photo, and on Castro at Market near Noah's Bagels.

Thanks for looking out for us, and thanks for reading.

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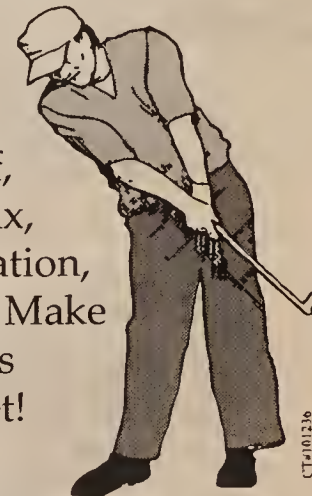
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A Voice in Every Port



Twenty-third Street resident Brooke Thornton reports that she always packs a copy of the *Noe Valley Voice* on her vacations. "It's great to have a slice of home handy when I'm off to far-flung places," she says. While visiting a friend in England, Brooke remembered to get photographic proof in the town of Burford.



Our literate 26th Street resident Jay Scarborough brought a copy of the *Voice* on his recent trip to South East Asia. Here he allows himself and his hometown paper to soak up some of the atmosphere in front of the Temple of Literature in Hanoi.



Noe Valley resident Lynn Ferrin forwards this report from Iquitos, Peru: "This fall I was exploring the Amazon on a small, funky wooden passenger boat. On an excursion up a side stream to fish for piranha, I thought it might be safer to fish the *Noe Valley Voice* for news of home. Note: You don't want to mess with piranha while they're alive, but they were delicious that night for dinner."

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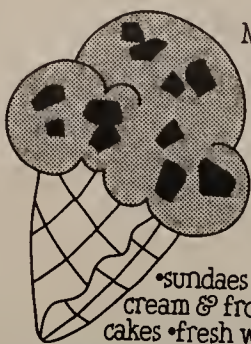
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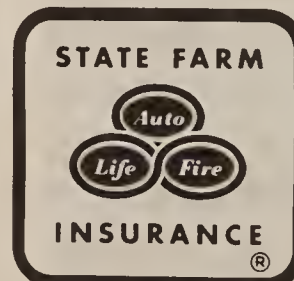


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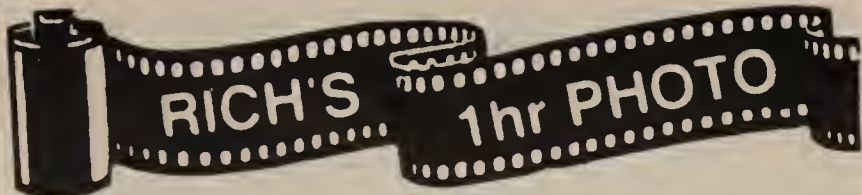
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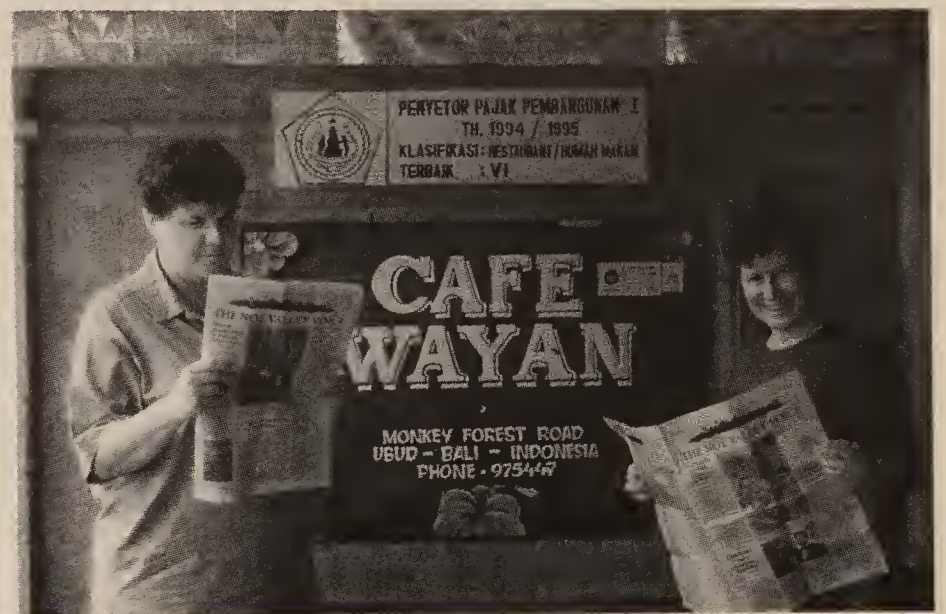
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Readers Across the Waves



There's that tower again—this time with Casey Conroy standing between it and his newspaper. Casey enjoyed his August vacation but was glad to get back in time for the publication of the September issue. The Voice is still not carried at most Italian newsstands. "Coming home to any other place but Noe Valley, I would have been seriously bummed!" he notes.



Unlike the Alvarado Street tour group, who had to share, Jody Patraha (left) and Eureka Street resident Rachel Schochet each brought a copy of the Voice on their journey to Indonesia. Here the intrepid travelers show proof of their loyalty in front of a cafe in Ubud on the island of Bali, where they enjoyed cups of "excellent cappuccino."



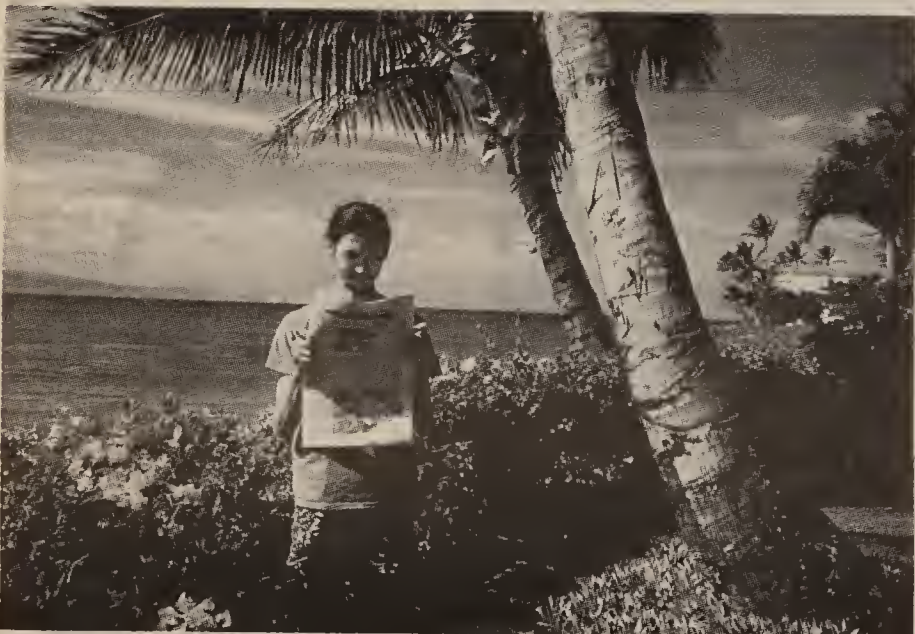
Anne Engelhardt journeyed from 25th Street back to her hometown of Cologne, Germany, this fall where her mom, Klara Engelhardt, took the above photo in front of the stately Cologne Cathedral.



Lacking any body of water on which to play at home, an Elizabeth Street group trekked to Venice, where there's more water than dry land. There's so much, in fact, that they eventually tired of the gondola rides and sought distraction in the Noe Valley Voice. Shown from left to right are Lisa Riordan-Seville, Dennis Riordan, and Jill Sowards..



Noe Valley's Vladimir Merkuloff is safely behind the camera in this photo taken in Vladivostok, Russia. A modern movie house serves as background for a sculpture of a news-munching Siberian tiger. The sculpture is a biting reminder that a tiger is said to have eaten one of the earliest settlers of the peninsula where Vladivostok now stands.



The theme of this issue's Readers photos is obviously water. Whether in, on, or over it, Voice readers manage to keep their copies dry while practicing proper aquarian traveler etiquette. Last but not least is Chris Sequeira, shown here on the island of Maui. Though he lives in Daly City, Sequeira spends much of his time in Noe Valley, teaching classes in "Living Tai Chi."



Sara Segal provided this photo of the intrepid adventurers Bob and Ben Kantor on a news break while checking out the rain forest in Cairns, North Queensland, Australia. Segal reports that they also did a lot of scuba diving on the Great Barrier Reef: "Next time we'll encase the Voice in plastic and try for an underwater photo!"

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Bag It—Don't Leave It. The Sanchez and Valley Street area has seen an increase in the fragrant leavings of man's best friend. Despite the efforts of neighbors like those pictured above, some pet owners just let a dog do what it's gotta do. *Photo by Najib Joe Hokim*

MORE GROUPS TO JOIN

Amnesty International Group 80

Contact: Lauren Fondahl, 587-7299

Mailing Address: 562 Bright St., San Francisco, CA 94132

Meetings: First Thursday of month, Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St., 7:30 p.m.

Castro Area Planning + Action

Linton Stables, 541-0344, ext. 230

E-mail: capa@home4us.org

Meetings: Second Thursday of month, Eureka Valley Recreation Center, 100 Collingwood St., 7:30 p.m.

Diamond Heights Community Association

Contact: Robert Dockendorff, 826-3867

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 31529, San Francisco, CA 94131

Meetings: First Thursday of the month, 7:30 p.m. Call for location.

Dolores Heights Improvement Club

Contact: Amy Powell, 647-4228

Mailing Address: 3732 21st St., San Francisco, CA 94114

Meetings: Bimonthly; membership meetings semi-annually. Call for details.

Duncan Newburg Association (DNA)

Contact: Evelyn Martin, 826-6734,

Keith Eickman, 282-8988,

Dennis Downing, 647-0937, or

Deanna Mooney, 821-4045

Mailing Address: 560 Duncan St.,

San Francisco, CA 94131

Meetings: Held periodically. Call for details.

East & West of Castro Street

Improvement Club

Contact: Paul Kantus, 647-3753

Mailing Address: 492 Douglass St.,

San Francisco, CA 94114

Meetings: First Wednesday of month, Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St., 7:30 p.m.

Fair Oaks Neighbors

Contact: Paul Nixon, 647-5183

Mailing Address: 163 Fair Oaks St.,

San Francisco, CA 94110

Meetings: Call for details.

Fairmount Neighborhood Association

Contact: Susan Nutter, 285-8484

Mailing Address: 78 Harper St.,

San Francisco, CA 94131

Meetings: Held periodically at Upper Noe Rec Center, Day & Sanchez, 7 p.m.

Friends of Noe Valley

Contact: Cecile Lozano, 695-9502

Mailing Address: 327 Jersey St.,

San Francisco, CA 94114

Meetings: Second Thursday of month, Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St., 7:45 p.m.

La Leche League of San Francisco

Contact: Susan Condon, 282-7816

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 460566,

San Francisco, CA 94146-0566

Meetings: Third Thursday of month, Upper Noe Rec Center, Day & Sanchez, 12:15 p.m.

Liberty Hill Neighborhood Association

Contact: Barbara Russell, v.p., 285-4782;

John Barbey, pres., 695-0990;

Mailing Address: 3288 21st St., Box 44,

San Francisco, CA 94110

Meetings: At least quarterly. Call for details.

Noe Valley Democratic Club

Contact: Dave Monks, 821-4087

Mailing Address: 1652 Dolores St. #6,

San Francisco, CA 94110

Meetings: Second Wednesday of month, 7 p.m. Call for specifics.

Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association

Contact: Cynthia Tong, sec.; 647-6000;

Robert Roddick, pres., 641-8687

Mailing Address: 4162 24th St.,

San Francisco, CA 94114

Meetings: Last Wednesday of month, Bank of America, 24th & Castro, 9 a.m.

Noe Valley Senior Center

Call 648-1030 for lunch reservations.

Mailing Address: 1021 Sanchez St.,

San Francisco, CA 94114

Meetings: Monday through Friday for lunch (donation \$1.25), Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St., 12:30 p.m.

Outer Noe Valley Merchants

Contact: Jim Appenrodt, 641-1500

Mailing Address: 294 29th St.,

San Francisco, CA 94131

Meetings: First Monday of month, St. Paul's Church cafeteria, 3 p.m.

Upper Noe Neighbors

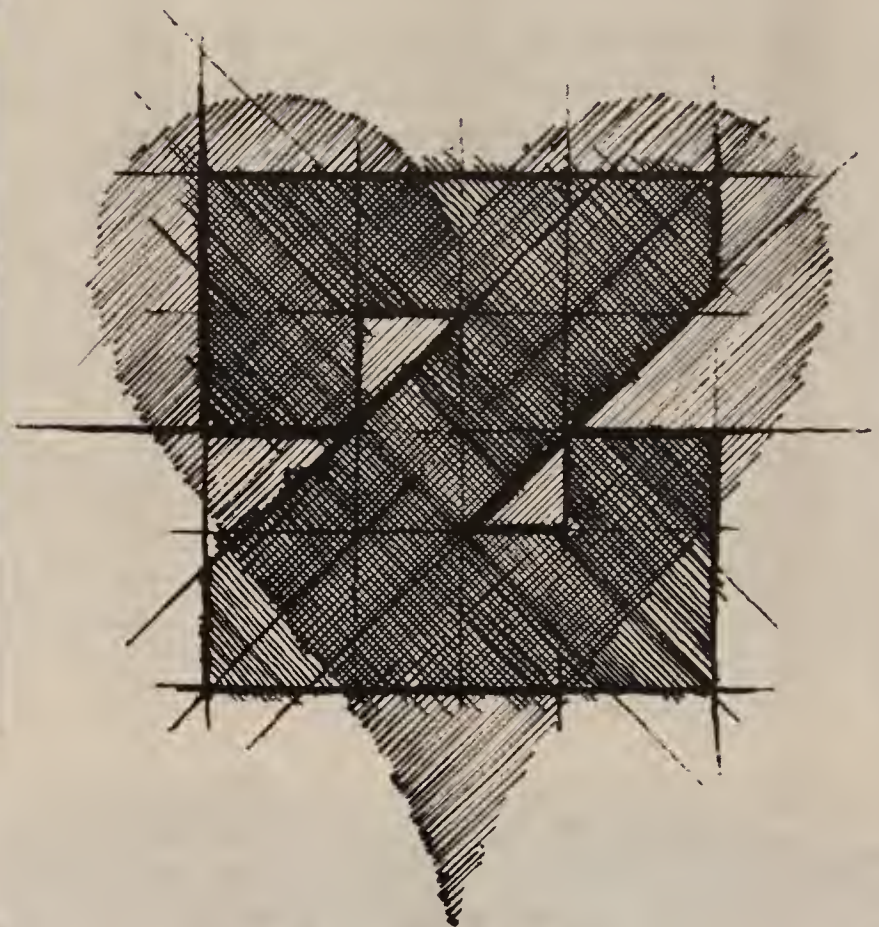
Contact: Janice Gendreau, 641-5989

Mailing Address: 403 28th St.,

San Francisco, CA 94131

Meetings: Every other month, Upper Noe Rec Center, Day & Sanchez. Call for specifics.

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Ah, Sunflowers! This future bounty, fed by the winter rain, will grow bright and tall again in Noe Valley gardens. Photo by Pamela Gerard

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by Florence Holub

Inaugurating a Newsletter

I was wondering how I was going to get my article together this month, when I suddenly remembered the chock-full-of-information letters we always get for Christmas. Why not do something like that for my column?

So here's my end-of-the-year newsletter (just two months late). I

the market after a few months each time.

When I saw Jay in December (for the first time in many years) at a birthday party for one of our neighbors, he told me that when he brought his bride-to-be to see the house he had been attempting to dispose of, she immediately fell in love with it, and the rest is history!

They were married last year and now live in the mansion. But the heart that they had lovingly etched in the cement was lost when the sidewalk was again torn up recently to install a corner ramp for the disabled. They did manage to squeeze their names and the date back into the new cement, but alas, there was no longer room for the heart in the narrow space that remained next to the wrought-iron entry gate to their home.

On that same corner, our steep hill was featured in a December episode of the *Nash Bridges* TV show titled "The

town this year! For weeks preceding and even after the holiday, the street was clogged with cars and visitors.

From our front window we had a privileged view of the parade of people who flocked to see the lavishly decorated Christmas tree across the street in Dr. Goldstein's garden. It was magical, and the spirit of the tree was truly heartwarming.

Watching the enthusiasm of adults and the enchantment of the children as they received their candy canes and whistles from the Santa on duty was a pleasure. But occasionally the late-night clamor got the best of the neighbors. After a couple of sleepless nights, a few went down to ask Santa to please not give the kiddies whistles. They also said it would be helpful if he could turn the lights off a half-hour earlier, at 11:30 p.m. Eager to please, Santa complied with their wishes.



Street. Two days later, we were 150 miles away in Grass Valley, partaking of the family turkey dinner. There we met our son Jan's girlfriend, who lives in Marysville, which was inundated by floodwaters at the beginning of the New Year.

Fortunately, she was able to flee with her teenage daughter to the Holub home in high and dry Grass Valley, where her boyfriend lives. She stayed there for several days, until it was safe to return.



Florence's year-end adventures included a visit to the *Nash Bridges* set on Treasure Island with husband Leo, who couldn't resist snapping this panoramic view of San Francisco. (Hey, next time get Don Johnson to take the picture, Leo. Florence looks lonely.) Photo by Leo Holub

promise I will relate only the last and best of the year.

Starting early in December, I was returning from 24th Street with a bundle of *Noe Valley Voices* when at the top of the hill I came upon contractor Seamus McGee, who was admiring his nearly completed trio of buildings at the corner of Sanchez and 21st (the subject of many controversial stories in the *Voice*).

I offered him one of my papers, but he declined, having already read the December issue from cover to cover. He did, however, offer his reaction to it, saying, tongue in cheek, that he was disappointed because his name had not been mentioned once. "It is already clear that your houses are shaping up beautifully and will be a credit to our hill," I assured Mr. McGee (that's twice).

While we stood there, I glanced over at the newly poured sidewalk in front of the Rolph mansion, which sits across the street from the McGee development (that's three times!).

"Sunny Jim" Rolph was the mayor of San Francisco during the Roaring '20s, and his former "suburban" home is the graceful Tudor house with the beautiful trees and fountain on the northeast corner of 21st and Sanchez.

When I walked over to the sidewalk, I noted an inscription that had been made a week or so earlier, after the underground wiring crews finished digging up and re-cementing the pavement. There, engraved in the cement, was a heart holding two names, Jay and Jan, and a date, 1996. This undoubtedly referred to Frank (Jay) Salaman and his new bride, Jan.

When we first moved to 21st Street 35 years ago, Jay still lived in the mansion with his parents, but a few years later he moved to the Peninsula. Upon the death of his father, and then his mother, the house passed on to him. He put it up for sale twice, but took it off

25 Hours of Christmas." But the six hours of frantic filming that took place in October flew across the TV screen in only seven seconds!

We sent the *Voice* article about the series, which included one of Leo's photographs of the high-speed car chase, to Eric Neldner, the friendly assistant locations manager, who reciprocated by offering us a tour of Don Johnson's production facility on Treasure Island.

We accepted, of course, and found it housed in one of the few buildings still standing on the island—a remnant of the 1939 San Francisco International Exposition.

Inside the huge hangar were offices and workshops, along with plenty of space for sets and scenery. We were allowed to inspect two sets, and recognized one of them as the place where Nash supposedly lives—a loft with a slightly damaged entrance, large windows, and a night view of highrises studded with lights.

The other set contained a well-appointed living quarters with a sweeping view of the Marina, and the lovely old Palace of Fine Arts looming in front of the San Francisco Bay.

The view had been photographically superimposed upon a translucent backdrop that looked like an enormous bathroom shower curtain. We were told that the cost of creating the background alone was \$75,000. But when lit from behind, it is a convincing depiction of the real thing.

We were not allowed to take photographs inside the facility, but as we left the island, the magnificent view of our beautiful city could not go unrecorded, so Leo got out his camera.

Our block of 21st Street from Church to Sanchez must have been the most popular Christmas scene in

On that night the lights went off at 11:30 instead of the usual midnight hour. Unfortunately, the Christmas revelers in front of the tree began chanting loudly, "Turn the lights back on, turn the lights back on!" Oh well, Christmas comes but once a year.

But Christmas was not the only important event on our hill. Our good friends and neighbors, Angus and Mariann Pera, invited us to a dinner at their home, to celebrate the graduation of their son Arran from the San Francisco Police Academy. There in his uniform, he looked tall, handsome, and ready for the challenge.

Now that Arran is on the force, may the force be with him!

The birthday party that I mentioned earlier was given for Ann Hoecker by her daughter, Vicki. Ann, who looks 30 years younger than she is, was celebrating her 90th birthday in good health, with many friends and a happy, positive outlook on life.

Speaking of birthdays, my man Leo had another one on Nov. 25, so I treated him to a savory supper at Savor on 24th

Still pinned to our bulletin board are the invitations to the parties we attended during the yuletide season, when we indulged our appetites without caution or regret.

Also pinned up is a more recent invitation—a commemorative invitation to the inauguration of President William Jefferson Clinton and Vice President Albert Gore Jr. It is an elegant document with a gold-embossed seal at the top, and below, a graceful black script.

Although the invitation is only a thoughtful gesture, I will treasure it, and it shall be my pleasure on Jan. 20 to witness the event from the comfortable couch in our living room, thanks to the magic of television.

Five days later, on my 78th birthday, my man Leo will take me to dinner at one of Noe Valley's fine restaurants.

Like most newsletters that include a photograph of the senders taken in front of some exotic tourist spot around the world, we also include our picture taken halfway across the Bay Bridge at Treasure Island.

Greetings and best wishes for a happy and prosperous 1997! □



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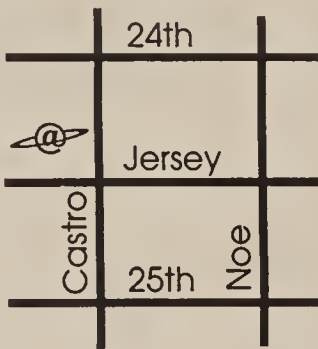
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Baker, aka the Library Cat, often stops to smell the flowers in the back garden at the Noe Valley-Sally Brunn Library on Jersey Street. He's such a frequent visitor that Librarian Roberta Greifer would like to meet his humans. Photo by Pamela Gerard

MORE BOOKS to READ

And Other Worlds at the Noe Valley-Sally Brunn Library

In addition to books on every subject, the Noe Valley-Sally Brunn Library offers a women's collection, the Noe Valley History Archives, back issues of the *Noe Valley Voice*, and a deck and community garden. The library has children's programs and gives access to the Internet. But it's also the ideal place to escape your computer. Drop by or call (695-5095) to find out the availability of any of the new books listed below. The address is 451 Jersey St. Hours are Tuesdays, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Wednesdays, 1 to 9 p.m.; Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Fridays, 1 to 6 p.m.; and Saturdays, noon to 6 p.m.

Adult Fiction By Roberta Greifer

- ◆ In *The Deep End of the Ocean*, a first novel by Jacquelyn Mitchard, a mother confronts the loss of her 3-year-old son.
- ◆ *The Fallen Man*, Tony Hillerman's latest thriller, begins at Ship Rock Mountain, where the body of a man has been lying for 11 years.
- ◆ In Sherman Alexie's *Indian Killer*, a murderer on the loose in Seattle inflames the fears, conflicts, and racial hatreds of its residents.
- ◆ *The Paper Wife*, by Linda Spalding, tells how a close friendship between two university women is threatened by passion—and almost destroyed.
- ◆ **Adult Nonfiction**
- ◆ Ants, childhood, and her husband's inexplicable suicide are some of the subjects tackled in 83-year-old Virginia Adair's first collection of poetry, *Ants on a Melon*.
- ◆ In *Downsize This*, author Michael Moore, the creator of the documentary film *Roger and Me*, humorously attacks politicians, corporate executives, and others he considers enemies of the working class.
- ◆ Julia Cameron's *The Vein of Gold* is a companion to the bestselling *The Artist's Way* that further ignites the creative process.
- ◆ An ecological eye-opener, *Water: A Natural History*, by Alice Outwater, describes the needless dismantling of our water system and what can be done about it.

Dioramic Display of Mini-Art
◆ A dioramic exhibit called "*Glacierama*," filling two display cases with miniature scenes created by 20 different artists, continues through February at the Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St.

Children's Fiction By Carol Small

- ◆ Sarah and Beth seem happy to welcome "Papa" into their lives in *When We Married Gary*, written by Anna Grossnickle Hines. (Ages 4-6.)
- ◆ Pablo, growing up with a Jewish father and a Mexican-American mother, decides that he will take *Jalapeño Bagels* (by Natasha Wing) to International Day at school. (Ages 5-7.)
- ◆ A Shoshone boy who has stage fright before the spelling bee is helped by traditional wisdom in *Brave As a Mountain Lion*, by Ann Herbert Scott. (Ages 6-8.)
- ◆ The friendship between two third-grade girls goes through significant changes in *When Jane-Marie Told My Secret*, by Gina Willner-Pardo. (Ages 7-9.)
- ◆ Teenagers Tim and Leo fight desperately against domination by the "Heads" and the "Others" in *The Night the Heads Came*, by William Sleator. (Ages 10 and up.)
- ◆ A seventh-grade boy modifies his macho style of behavior after his grandfather's stroke and some events at school in *Crash* by Jerry Spinelli. (Ages 10 and up.)

Children's Nonfiction
◆ In *Riding Silver Star* by Joanna Cole, Abigail cares for her horse, takes a riding lesson, and takes part in a horse show. (Ages 8 and up.)- ◆ A trip westward begun with high expectations turns into a calamity in *Snowbound, the Tragic Story of the Donner Party*, by David Lavender. (Ages 10 and up.)

Story Hour, Lapsits, and Movies
◆ *Preschool Story Time* for kids 3 to 5, starts at 10 a.m. on Tuesdays, Feb. 4, 11, and 18. The Wednesday *Lapsits*, featuring songs and stories for infants and toddlers, kick off at 7 p.m. on Feb. 5, 12, 19, and 26. *Films* for preschoolers will be screened on Tuesday, Feb. 25, at 10 and 11 a.m.

The listings in "More Books to Read" are selected by librarians Roberta Greifer and Carol Small. All events take place at the Noe Valley-Sally Brunn Library at 451 Jersey St.

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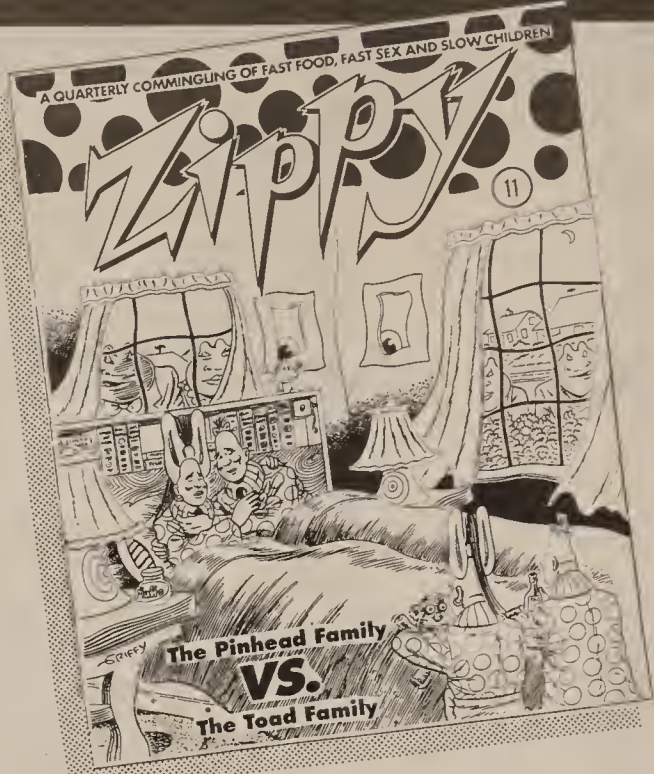
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Let's Make Music! But first, the gang at Debra King School must pose for the camera. In back from left to right we have Taylor Ann, Adam, Eliza, Nelson, Debra King, Ezra, Billie Rae, Michelle, and Kai. Down front are Daniel and Evan. Now everybody rock the place. Photo by Pamela Gerard



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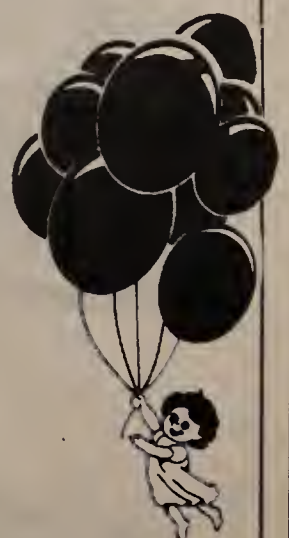
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Police and school officials were baffled about who set fire to 15 abandoned Christmas trees within a few feet of the buildings at James Lick School before dawn Jan. 7. Photo by Beverly Tharp



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They're for You. Sam Fields knows the way to his valentine's heart is through a bouquet of flowers. And if the presentation happens to be made at Martha & Brothers on Church Street, he just might get a chocolate peanut butter cookie out of it. Photo by Pamela Gerard

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To learn more about St. Paul's Elementary School, we invite you to contact our principal, Sr. Ann Cronin, BVM, at 648-2055.

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Curb Painting.....554-2336	Drug Information Hotline...1-800-879-2772
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Graffiti Removal.....241-WASH	Fire (non-emergency).....861-8000
Hazardous Spills (on street).....911	Poison Control Center.....1-800-523-2222
Hazardous Waste Hotline.....554-4333	Police/Fire Emergency.....911
Illegal Parking.....553-1200	Police (non-emergency).....553-0123
Mayor's Office.....554-7111	San Francisco SAFE.....553-1984
Noise (construction related).....558-6096	S.F. Women Against Rape.....647-7273
Noise (nuisance—police).....553-1012	Suicide & Crisis Line.....781-0500
Parking Meters (out of order).....550-2739	WOMAN, Inc. (24-hour
Parking Permits (residential).....554-5000	domestic violence hotline).....864-4722
San Francisco Beautiful.....421-2608	
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dumped items or garbage).....695-2017	Building Inspection.....558-6087
Streetlights (out of order).....554-0730	Electrical Inspection.....558-6030
Street Signs.....554-9780	Pacific Bell.....611
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Water Dept. (street breaks).....550-4911	Sunset Scavenger.....330-1300
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Isn't She Lovely? The flowers, bridesmaids, limo, and photographers witness a sunny summertime wedding at St. Paul's on Church Street.

Photo by Najib Joe Hakim



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Conor James Ezarik

Conor James Ezarik's arrival in the wee hours—12:14 a.m. on July 23, 1996—was no coincidence. "He's genetically a night owl," says his mom, Janet Gillen, 42.

Conor's father, Mark Ezarik, 42, was also awake and present at California Pacific Medical Center when his son tipped the scales at a healthy 8 pounds, 5 ounces. Conor's aunts, Marion Gillen and Linda Edelstein, both registered nurses, were there burning the midnight oil, too.

Six months later, Conor is still wide-eyed and bushy-tailed. "I was sitting up with him until five this morning," Mark says. "If I tried to put him down, he would wake. You don't see your best TV at four a.m."

"I've really learned to like Montel Williams," Janet chimes in.

Despite his offbeat time clock, Conor is quite a charmer, with his reddish-brown hair and chameleon eyes. "I've seen them blue and I've seen them green," says Mark, "so I don't think they've settled on a color yet."

"He's a mellow soul unless he's hungry," says his mom. "Then he wants it now," especially if it's sweet potatoes or bananas, two delicacies he discovered on Christmas Eve.

During the week, Conor, like his 5½-year-old brother Andrew before him, hangs out at Cover to Cover bookstore, where his dad works. "In Noe Valley, there are so many people with kids, they don't seem to think twice about an infant working here," Mark says.

It's too soon to tell if Conor will be a writer someday, but he does display a budding talent for origami. "It's his favorite thing right now to crinkle paper," says his dad. "He wads it up, and he's even folded a couple of sheets at work."

Early evening finds Janet, director of social services at Laguna Honda Hospital, dropping by the store to collect Conor before going on to pick up Andrew at school.

Andrew, Janet notes, is pleased as punch to have a baby brother. "The first thing he wants to do is come kiss his brother," she says. "He acts very proud in front of his friends."



Mom Janet Gillen and son Andrew, 5½, report that 6-month-old Conor Ezarik is currently the youngest employee at Cover to Cover Booksellers, where dad Mark Ezarik works. Photo by Beverly Tharp

Playtime at home follows, which often includes a game of "Tails for Whales." Andrew also keeps Conor amused by bringing him toys. And Conor is responding by starting to talk. "It's like a loud singing," says Janet.

"It's amazing, he's in total awe of Andrew," says Mark. "He watches him like he's the Second Coming, and tries to get his attention."

But Conor also likes to hang with his peers, Jonah and Jordan. All three boys were born within a week of one another.

"It's hard *not* to find someone your own age when you're this little in Noe Valley," Mark says. "The people who don't have kids are talking about taking back the streets from the strollers," he deadpans.

When left to his own devices, Conor enjoys playing with his feet and holding his hands in front of his face. "It's like he can't believe these hands belong to him, and he's just waiting to see what they're going to do next," says his dad.

Lately, Conor's hands have been having a lot of fun waving to people while he's out galavanting around on 24th Street with Mom.

"We're hoping that he'll like to travel," says Janet, mentioning plans to go to the New Orleans Jazz Festival this

spring, then visit relatives in New Jersey.

Speaking of New Orleans, Janet and Mark first met in Louisiana in 1977, when a mutual friend played matchmaker. A move to San Francisco in 1979 landed them in Noe Valley, and "we never left," says Janet. They bought their Day Street home in 1989.

"For years we didn't know whether we were going to have children," recalls Janet. "But it's a whole new dimension of life. It's great watching them sleep, seeing those early-morning smiles.... And

there's no match for the excitement of watching them grow." □

—Maire Farrington

More Mouths to Feed wants to show off *your* newest family member. If you have welcomed a baby into the house or just adopted a teenager, please send your announcement to *The Noe Valley Voice*, More Mouths, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Don't forget to include your phone number, so we can arrange for the family portrait. □

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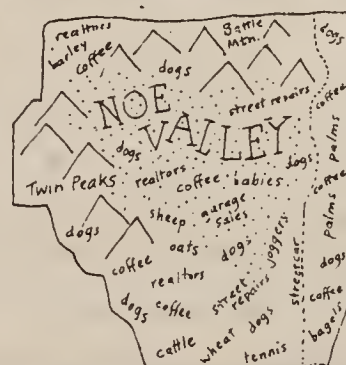
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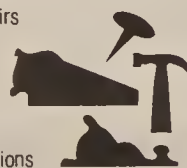


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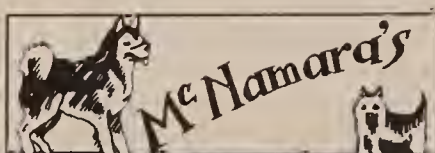
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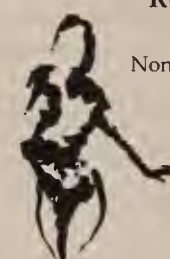
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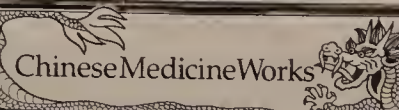
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and now for the RUMORS behind the news

Muni Railroadings

By Mazook

THE FEISTY MERCHANTS in Uptown Noe Valley were ready to throw themselves on the tracks last month. That's because, despite their protest, Muni appeared bent on building two block-long boarding ramps on Church Street between 29th and 30th.

As most *Voicers* know, the J-line stop at 30th and Church is one of 15 "key stops" around the city where Muni plans to install ramps to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act. (Church and 24th is another.)

Merchants and residents have been trying to persuade Muni for more than two years to avoid putting the ramps in the middle of this small but famous business district (it was the backdrop for the movie *Sister Act*). The merchants are furious not only because they stand to lose half the parking and loading spaces on the strip, but because they feel their needs have been largely ignored by City Hall.

Many are also upset over the fact that Muni originally planned to put one of the ramps in front of St. Paul's Church, then moved it down the block after the church objected. But when the shops suggested 30th Street as a more logical alternative because of the nearby senior center, they only got the cold shoulder.

In December the merchants thought they had until March '97 to halt construction. Many were counting on the mayor's office to intercede on their behalf and broker a compromise.

Then the city dispatched crews to carve out some diagonal parking spaces on 29th and Day streets. The workers also chalked up the pavement on Church to show where the ramps would go in.

But things didn't reach critical mass until early January, when crews cut down three trees in front of Star Bakery prefatory to cutting into the sidewalk. They also started moving the utility lines on



Trees Tell the Story: In January Church Street merchants inundated Mayor Brown's office with phone calls, begging him to ask Muni to shift its new disabled ramps to 30th Street. But the first step the city took toward installing the ramps on Church was to chop down the trees in front of Star Bakery—a bad sign for local shopkeepers. Photo by Najib Joe Hakim

both sides of Church Street.

Mad as hell and not gonna take it anymore, "The Merchants of Church Street" (31 altogether) signed and sent Mayor Willie Brown a letter on Jan. 9—with cc's to Muni chief Emilio Cruz, supervisors Leland Yee and Susan Leal, and State Senator Quentin Kopp. They informed him, among other things, that "Eva Skoufis, owner of Church Street Laundromat, still emotionally recalls the day you promised her while campaigning that 'the ramps will not go in front of the businesses.'" They also invited da mayor to come out to da neighborhood ASAP.

When no response came within a week, the merchants launched a barrage of phone calls to Cruz and the mayor himself. The telephone blitz caused such a stir, the *Chronicle* even dispatched a reporter to the scene to investigate.

On Jan. 16, the merchants plastered a notice on their windows telling their customers that the telephone campaign was working and that the mayor's office had promised a public meeting. They also urged their supporters to keep calling the mayor to complain about Muni's "campaign of intimidation."

By Jan. 22, the merchants had posted "Update #2," proclaiming that "City Hall is getting our message. A meeting has been scheduled...Wednesday night, Jan. 29, 7 p.m., at St Paul's Catholic Church."

☎ ☎ ☎

YOU SHOULD KNOW THE RESULTS of that meeting before you read this col-

umn, which will hit the streets of Noe Valley just as the meeting starts on Jan. 29.

It looks like the mayor or one of his aides will attend, along with representatives from Muni, Supervisor Yee, and perhaps Susan Leal. Organizers of the revolt hope to get a thousand people to attend, but will probably be happy with a hundred.

The rumor behind all this news is that the mayor will most likely back Muni on the ramp issue and will tell those assembled that we are at the end of a long road which started in 1992, long before he became mayor. He'll say there have been numerous public hearings, that Muni has done all the proper outreach, and that many changes have been made in the plans to meet public concerns. Federal law mandates the ramps. The project is now in Muni's hands. So, end of discussion.

When those assembled learn that the key stop is a done deal, we may hear a very loud moan coming from the end of Church Street (something similar to the high-pitched squeal of the new "modern" J-Church streetcars).

☎ ☎ ☎

DEMOLITION DERBY: Neighbors on Diamond Street between 25th and Clipper are also moaning over the loss of a Fernando Nelson Victorian (circa 1896), demolished at the end of January.

More than 50 neighbors tried unsuccessfully to appeal the permit for the demolition and for construction of new units at 1025 Diamond St.

Some expressed outrage over our care-

less disregard for the neighborhood's architectural heritage. Sure, the house needed work, they said. But it sat in a row of five Nelson houses—a mini-landmark.

Others objected to the four-story structure that will replace the oldtimer.

One of the neighbors, Megan Smith, warns that if you want to oppose a demolition or any proposed new construction, then do it immediately after applications for permits have been filed.

"It's hard to appeal after the permit has already been issued," she laments. And, in case you were wondering, "Proposition M's mandate to preserve neighborhood character is *not* being followed."

☎ ☎ ☎

SHORT SHRIFTS: Rumors that Vince Hogan is selling the Rovers' Inn in Downtown Noe Valley are bogus. The building, not the business, is for sale...and the real rumor is that Vince is in the process of buying the building (escrow opened).

No-feed notices have been plastered on the Sanchez Street house of Noe Valley's Pigeon Lady, Anna Muru. However, the plot thickened in the city's year-long attempt to stop her from feeding the birds (they have obtained a court order): neighbors report seeing a Pigeon Man—an elder gentleman who wears a cap—roaming near the Pigeon Lady's house and throwing feed to his (or her) flocks.

The very Noe Valley Sirena Botanica, which, according to owner Petra Martinez, "specializes in spiritual goods for spiritual use," has moved from its small store on Church Street near 27th across the street to much larger quarters. The boutique has developed a citywide following and is evidently selling a lot of candles, oils, herbs, incense, and, Petra adds, the paintings of local artists.

Chocolate Covered has finally surfaced on 24th Street. The candy store that was located down the stairs in the small space under 17 Reasons has moved in to the storefront up the street where the Specialty Chef used to reign. Just it time for Valentine's Day, too. This store has almost 100 varieties of chocolate candy.

Many people have told the *Voice* that they are upset that the pornographic magazine *Yank* is for sale in vending machines in Downtown Noe Valley (corner Castro and 24th). But I haven't checked it out yet.

Hurray! The East & West of Castro Street Improvement Club is lobbying City Hall to install one of those French JC Decaux pay toilets (a smaller version of the ones used downtown) at Noe Courts park. You know where I stand on that issue (usually over in the bushes.) Why can't Rec and Park fix the ones that are there?

All you locals who freaked out when you read in the *Examiner* that there was a "Move to Change Name of 24th Street" to Calle Veinticuatro by Supervisor Susan Leal, should calm down. The headline was misleading. Leal is supporting a proposal that would replace the street signs on 24th Street from Valencia to Potrero with ones in English with Spanish subtitles. Bilingual signs are found in Chinatown and Japantown, she notes.

Well, if that's what all the fuss is about, why don't we put the signs all the way up to Grand View? You know, past Sanchez and Noe and Castro?

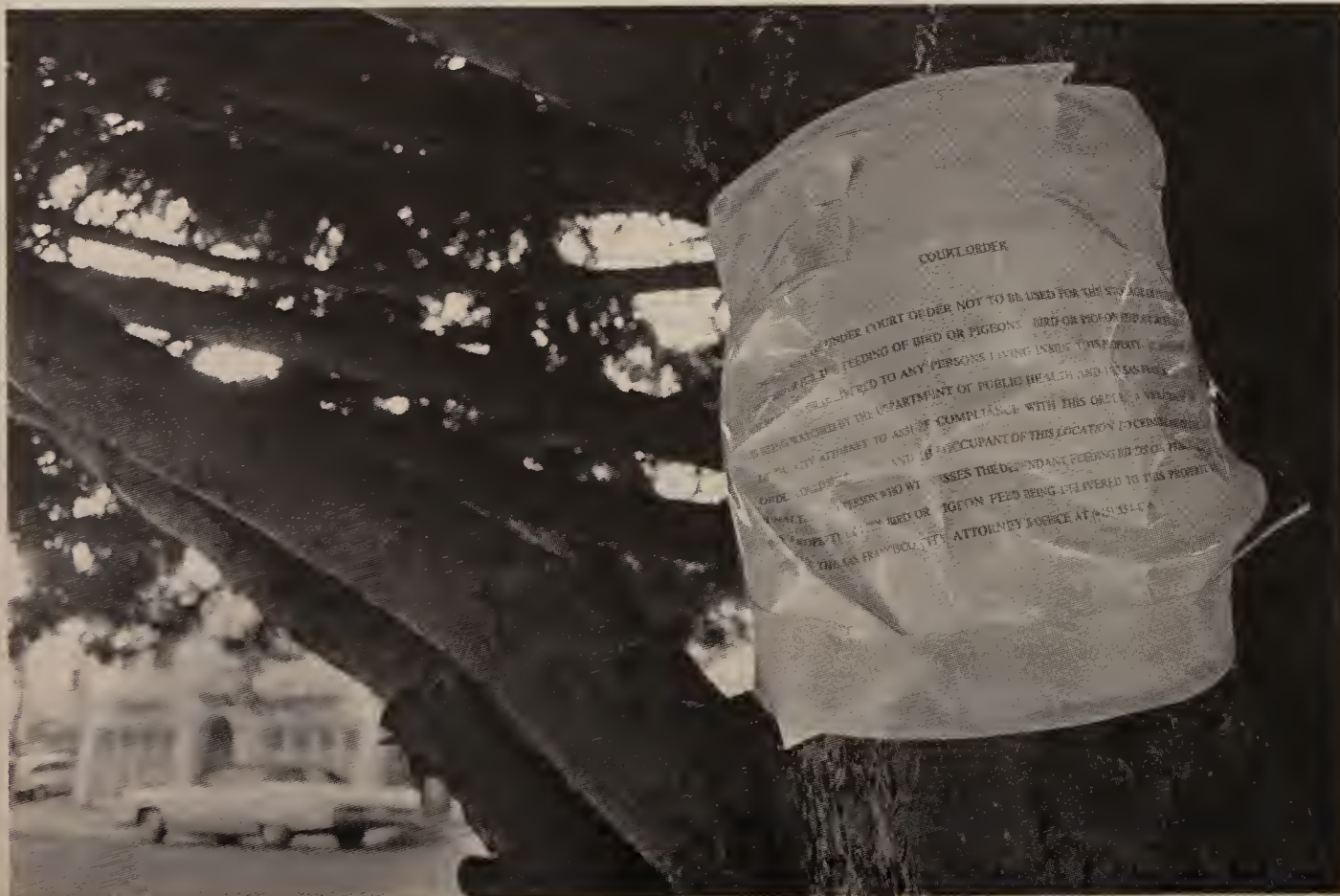
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TWO LOCAL SCHOOLS are staging major fundraising events on March 15.

The Alvarado Elementary School PTA is holding a silent auction and rummage sale at the school from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

According to PTA president Kendall Welch, Alvarado has already lined up a number of restaurant gift certificates, zoo passes, Academy of Science memberships, and Willie Brown's tie (presumably without his neck in it) to auction off.

Continued on Next Page



Watch the Skies: Now that a court order against feeding pigeons has been posted at the Sanchez Street home of Anna Muru—Noe Valley's infamous "Pigeon Lady"—neighbors are hoping they'll be spared the daily bombardment. But right after the signs went up in January, a "Pigeon Man" was spotted feeding his own flying flock at Sanchez and Cesar Chavez. Is it the Pigeon Lady's revenge? Photo by Najib Joe Hakim

RUMORS

Continued from Previous Page

But local businesses and neighbors are being asked to contribute more things that might fill the school's coffers. All contributions of goods should be delivered directly to the school at 625 Douglass St. (Or call Kendall at 824-9041.)

Kendall says last year the auction netted over \$7,000. The money is used to fund "a fine arts program and dance, and to make repairs needed in the building that should be paid for by the district."

Wind in the Willows, which is a non-profit preschool that has been at the corner of Church and Army (Chavez) for the past 23 years, is also having a silent auction on March 15.

The school, with almost 50 students, is calling on all its alumni to participate this year. Says board president Julie Derheim, the school is trying to top the \$3,700 participants raised last year. Much of the money will be devoted to funding scholarships and buying books for the library and play equipment for the play yard.

Anybody interested in attending the Wind in the Willows auction or donating goods or services, or ties worn by the mayor or any other elected official, should contact Julie at 206-1230.

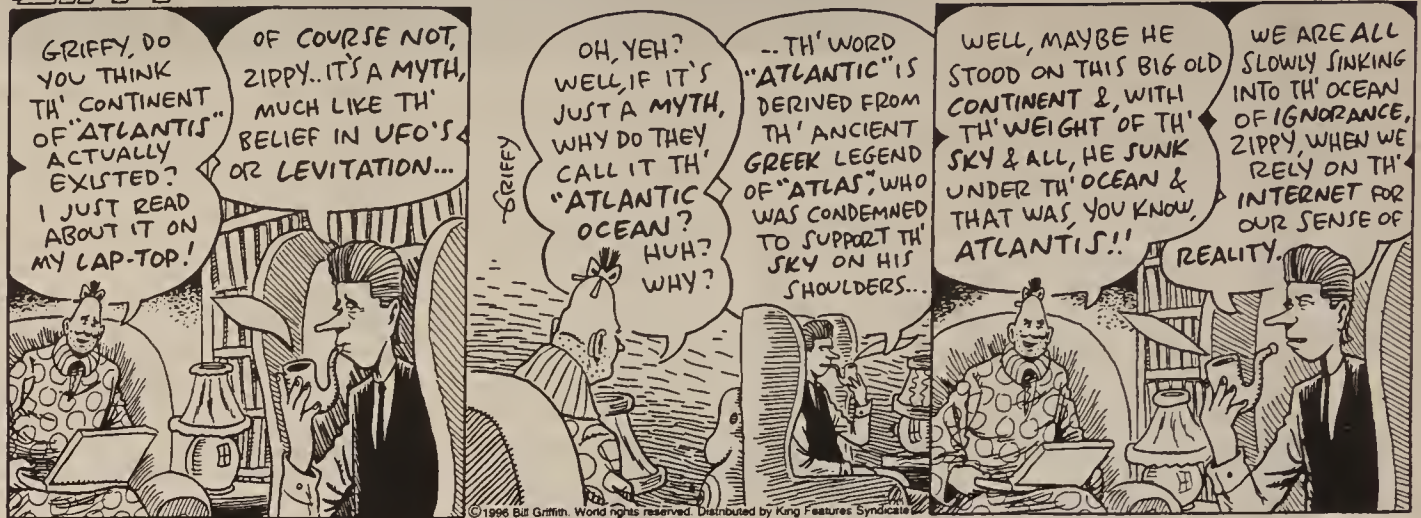
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BYE, KIDS. See you in the Ides of March. Keeps those cards and letters coming, and, to quote the inimitable Scoop Nisker, "If you don't like the news, go out and make some of your own." □

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Fatherhood—Is It for Me? Are you considering parenting? One-day workshops for men exploring this choice. Call for current schedule. Denise Carlini, M.F.C.C. Ann Davidman, M.F.C.C. registered intern IMF20110. Supervisor: K. Glaser, M.F.C.C. #18869. 985-7464.

Peaches Painting. Add color to your life (inside/outside). Service with care at rates that are fair. Since 1980. License #618693; 25 percent off with ad. 641-9434.

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New Improved Noe's Nest Bed and Breakfast. Unit A: private entrance, private bath, kitchenette, queen bed. Cute and cozy. Unit B: view, private bath, deck, fireplace, hot tub, queen bed. Unit C: ultra-view, private bath, steam room, parlor, king bed, fireplace, and deck. All with cable and VCR. Masseuse and day care available. Contact Sheila, 821-0751.

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Transform Your Jungle into a paradise. Pruning, cleanups, planting, lawns, irrigation, maintenance. Call Jorge at 826-7840 for free estimates. Remember, it's pruning time.

Living Tal Chi Chuan of Noe Valley. Unique approach for holistic balance. Beginners Tuesday and Thursday, 6 p.m., \$5 introduction. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. Chris Sequeira, 23 years' experience. (415) 756-6857, (415) 773-8185.

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Psychotherapy Office. Comfortable, beautifully furnished office in Noe Valley. Located in a suite of psychotherapy offices with a kitchen. Convenient to shops, transportation. Available Tuesdays. Call Ariene at 821-0590.

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Yoga in Noe Valley: Work-out to work-in, Viniyoga style! Also, arthritis classes, private lessons, and chanting classes. New Dawn Yoga Therapy, (415) 285-1831.

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HIV and Yoga. This six-week class is for anyone whose life has been touched with HIV. It focuses on practical tools for handling emotional issues, reducing stress, and improving physical health. Beginners welcome. Please register in advance. Call (415) 821-1117. Bring a towel, loose comfortable clothing, and an empty stomach. Mondays, beginning Feb. 24, 6 to 8 p.m. \$42. Integral Yoga Institute, 770 Dolores St. (415) 821-1117.

Why Clean? Allow Me to Do It! Save time and money with a detail-oriented professional. Cleaning extraordinaire at your service. Mike, 928-3199.

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Voice Lessons in Noe Valley: Learn to sing and improve your technique with Sigmund Seigel, tenor, San Francisco Opera Company, master of music degree. Beginning to advanced lessons in classical, Broadway, pop, at reasonable rates. Call 285-3779.

Yoga Teachers Training. Learn to teach yoga. This 10-week program trains you to teach yoga postures, meditation, Pranayama (breathing techniques), and relaxation techniques. Starts March 10. Call (415) 821-1117 for details. Integral Yoga Institute, 770 Dolores St.

CLAS ADS

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Liz's Unique Bed and Breakfast. Old world charm at affordable rates. Guests will awaken to the fragrance of homemade delicacies and fresh ground coffee. Call Liz, a gracious and knowledgeable hostess. (415) 648-2515.

Ayurvedic Medicine. Vijay Stallings is an Ayurvedic practitioner in Berkeley and is a program adviser for Holistic Health at John F. Kennedy University in Orinda. Vijay will facilitate an understanding of this ancient holistic health system by offering information on proper diet, food preparation, herbal remedies, medicinal oils, and various lifestyle adjustments. Friday, Feb. 28, 7:30 to 9 p.m., \$15. Integral Yoga Institute, 770 Dolores St. (415) 821-1117.

Charlie the Phone Guy: Residence and business telephone systems, fax/modem lines, office-in-home. Dead phone jacks brought back to life! Separate jacks for roommates. Free estimates. Noe Valley resident. Call 641-8654.

A Group for Parents of Young Children. This therapist-facilitated group will provide a safe place for self-exploration along with an opportunity to generate solutions to current problems. Phyllis S. Shulman, M.F.C.C., (415) 285-4724.

San Francisco Views...The Villa Guest House. San Francisco's best-kept secret located just four blocks from the heart of the gay mecca, the famous Castro District. Fabulous executive suites and rooms. Enjoy the spectacular view from the decks and pool area. Daily, weekly, and monthly rates available. For information and reservations, please call (415) 282-1367.

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Housecleaning. Experienced. References. Bonded. For more information call (415) 634-0959, Denise or Celeste.

Piano Lessons in Noe Valley: Learn piano with patient, supportive teacher. Lessons tailored to individual goals. Music degree and 20 years of teaching experience. Ear training, theory, classical, or popular repertoire, MIDI lab. Barbara Bannett, 648-1007.

Carpenter/Handyman Services from builder with over 20 years of professional experience. Call Marcus at 647-6087.

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Secretary. Word processing, transcription, typing, filing. All general office work. Fax. Helene, (415) 334-9853.

Furniture Wanted. I need old dressers, tables, desks, etc. Will repair and/or refinish if necessary. Paying cash. Karen, 647-6157.

Stressless Housecleaning. Superior quality. Customized cleaning. Errand services. Free estimates. Call Jeanine, 564-2877.

Is Everything Going Well in Your Life but you don't enjoy it? Therapy is a useful process to uncover why. There is always a reason and always a solution. (510) 395-3592 (San Francisco office). Ann Davidman, M.F.C.C. registered intern IMF20110. Supervisor: Kathy Glaser, M.F.C.C.

Massage Therapy for Women. Stress reduction and relief of neck and back tension. Housecalls. Janne, L.M.T. 468-5201.

Scottish Country Dancing. A basic class starts Monday, Jan. 27, at 8:15 p.m. at U.C.S.F. Millberry Fitness Center. \$36 for first nine-week session. Fun, energetic, social dancing in groups. Great music! Lively jigs and reels. No partners needed to attend. Bring tennis shoes or dance slippers. Call 476-1115 to register. For brochure call 333-9372.

Secretary/Part-time: Good office/people skills, Microsoft Word/Mac required. Pagemaker desirable. Phone (415) 552-0408 or fax (415) 431-5908.

Meditative Movement Workshops working with breath, sound, movement, and stillness. Saturdays, 1 to 5 p.m. Feb. 22, March 22, April 19, 1997. Classes are right here in Noe Valley! To register or inquire, call (415) 641-9633.

Parenting Brings Its Joys and challenges. Sometimes parents need time out to recharge and gain perspective. I offer supportive individual, couples, child, play therapy, consultation, and support groups. Inge Dean, M.F.C.C. (415) 241-8845.

Psychotherapist looking for office space. Castro, Church Street, Upper Market, or Noe Valley. Please call Frank at 406-0411.

I Am a Great Tenant and neighbor and wish to be part of the Noe/Bernal community. This single professional with excellent bank, business, personal and prior landlady references, is looking for a one-bedroom place 1 call home. Up to \$1,000 per month. Call 225-5540.

Darling Married Couple seeks Noe two-bedroom plus garage rental. He's a California Highway Patrol officer. She's a personal executive. Excellent local references. They have a sweet 10-pound dog and two smaller kitties. Pet deposit offered. Washer/dryer hookup a plus. Call Rayne Reynolds, 989-0989.

House for Rent. Glen Park. Month-to-month. Three-bedroom, garage, private yard, deck, and fountain. \$1,300. (415) 924-3524.

Motherhood—Is It for Me? Ambivalence can be immobilizing. Support groups and workshops for women exploring the many feelings associated with this choice. Call for current schedule. Denise Carlini, M.F.C.C. Ann Davidman, M.F.C.C. registered intern IMF20110. Supervisor: K. Glaser, M.F.C.C. #18869. 985-7464.

Kitty Hilton: Treat your cats to full-time loving attention at our home while you're away. As our clients can attest, their cats love to return again and again. Call Beth at 285-6857. References available.

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Telephone wiring and jacks for your home or apartment; 31 years of experience. Call Gene, 826-8419.

Rental Short-Term: Noe Valley view location; two guest suites with furnished living/bedroom areas, private baths, private phone lines, private entrances; shared kitchen/laundry; ideal for visiting family/friends, business travelers; weekly, monthly rates. 285-7189.

Word Processing (expertise: legal). Tape transcription, editing, mailings, repetitive letters, resumes, letter composition, complaint letters. Phone-in dictation system. Dena Reiner, (415) 821-4661.

Do You Want Great Abs, thighs, and hips? World-renowned fitness expert Charlotte Williams, M.Ed. presents *Love Your Body*, a two-part, time-saving power video workout with everything you need to get the results you want. \$24.50 includes video, tax, and shipping/handling. Send money order or check to P.O. Box 882853, San Francisco, CA 94188-2853. Check out Charlotte on Thrive@AOL.

How to Place a Class Ad

It's easy. Just type or print the text of your ad—on paper, please—multiply the number of words by 30¢ a word, and enclose a check or money order for the full amount. Note that phone numbers, including area code, count as one word. Mail the ad and check, made out to the *Noe Valley Voice*, so that we receive it by the 15th of the month preceding the month you'd like to advertise in. Even if the ad is a renewal from a prior issue, please repeat the full text of your ad.

Discount for Repeat Advertisers: *The Noe Valley Voice* publishes a news edition 10 months a year. (We're on vacation in January and August.) If you place the *same* class ad in 10 issues, you are entitled to a 10 percent discount. To figure your cost, deduct 10 percent from the total amount due for 10 issues.

The next *Voice* will be the March 1997 issue, on the streets of Noe Valley Wednesday, Feb. 26. The deadline for Class Ads is Feb. 15. The address is *Noe Valley Voice* Class Ads, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114.

Sorry, but we are unable to accept orders by phone or e-mail at this time.

However, you might like to know that the Class Ads in each month's issue of the *Voice* are also displayed on our Web site: www.noevalleyvoice.com. The advantage of viewing them online is that you can search for key words, like *pet*, *housecleaning*, or *therapist*. As an advertiser, you get month-long, worldwide exposure for your product or service. As a reader, you can turn to the electronic section of the *Voice* after you've accidentally thrown away or recycled the newspaper. (Not you.)

Class advertisers should keep in mind that only the first few words of the ad (not to exceed one line of type) will be set in boldface. Also, receipts and tear sheets will be provided only if your order is accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Thank you. ☐

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THE LAST PAGE

Selections from

Under a Gibbous Moon: The Adventures of Mister Funky

By Larry Beresford

MISTER FUNKY'S COFFEEHOUSE MANIFESTO

Right this minute
all around the world
a million practicing poets sit
in coffeehouses
sipping scorched coffee
and gumming wretched doughy
scones, muffins, brownies, carrot cake
or some other imitation pastry,
practicing their craft.

And now the moon,
probably just out of sight,
is pale, red, translucent, white, alive!
dead, evil, old, reliable,
watchful, menacing, servile,
ominous, nascent,
full, round, crescent, slivered,
even gibbous.
Deliver us, Lord, from gibbous moons.

Look, love sometimes comes.
Love sometimes goes.
I feel like shit.
I don't want to talk about it.

It's better this way, really,
I'll never forget you,
we'll always have Bakersfield,
you're better off without me,
I just don't see you in *that* way,
I'm very flattered, really I am,
I know I don't deserve your love,
don't you see it's not you it's me,
you're not going to see me cry,
can we still be friends?

Mister Funky says: Hey,
why can't you just say
what you *really* feel?

MISTER FUNKY'S FIRST CAR

I even dream about it,
trying again and again
to parallel park
into tight squeezes,

leaving it by the train station
or someplace, forgetting where,
wandering alone downtown
all night looking for it.

Some old friends show up
for the search and other adventures.
The dark woman leans her head
on my shoulder and whispers:

"Do you still want me
to spend the night?"
Overwhelmed, I reply,
"First I must find that car."



This photo by Annie Biderman — along with those of photographers Barry Biderman and Gabriel Biderman — will be on display this month at What's for Dessert. The Church Street cafe will host a reception for the Bidermans and poet Larry Beresford on Feb. 9, 4:30 p.m.

MISTER FUNKY AS A SEA MONSTER

With my glasses stowed in a locker
at my sister's health club pool,
the myopic blurs isolated me
from my laughing family. So,

emerging like a giant sea monster
at the shallow end,
I picked up the little tanned girl
in the familiar pink swimsuit
and carried her out to deeper waters.

She giggled nervously
and squealed, "Mommy, look!"
but her mommy,
also giggling nervously, poolside,
didn't sound like my sister.

Other voices boomed
off the distant ceiling,
laughs and shouts like untuned tympanies
echoing the gravity of my mistake.

Slowly, calmly,
I growled like a
friendly sea monster,
carefully floated her
back to the ledge,

grinned at all the blurs
and quickly submerged again,
thinking how much more trusting
she was than my niece.

Poetry Reading and Reception

"Mister Funky tries so hard to be cool, but the world conspires against his best efforts," says writer Larry Beresford, about his fictional alter-ego in a new book of poetry, *Under a Gibbous Moon: The Adventures of Mister Funky*, by Broken Shadow Publications.

A resident of Castro Street and longtime *Noe Valley Voice* contributor, Larry invites his friends and neighbors to come hear more about Mister Funky's foibles at a book party and reading Feb. 9, 4:30 to 6 p.m., at What's for Dessert, 1497 Church St. The party will also be a reception for photographers Annie, Barry, and Gabriel Biderman, whose work will be on exhibit at the cafe.

If you miss the Noe Valley event, Larry will be reading with poet Gail Ford at Cody's Books in Berkeley on Wednesday, Feb. 26, at 7:30 p.m. His book is also available at Cover to Cover Booksellers on 24th Street, or through Broken Shadow, 472 44th St., Oakland, CA 94609. ♦

Writers

The Noe Valley Voice invites you to submit essays, poetry, or fiction for possible publication on The Last Page. Please mail your manuscript, which should be typed, double-spaced, and 1,500 words or less, to the Noe Valley Voice, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Don't forget to send a phone number. We look forward to hearing from you.